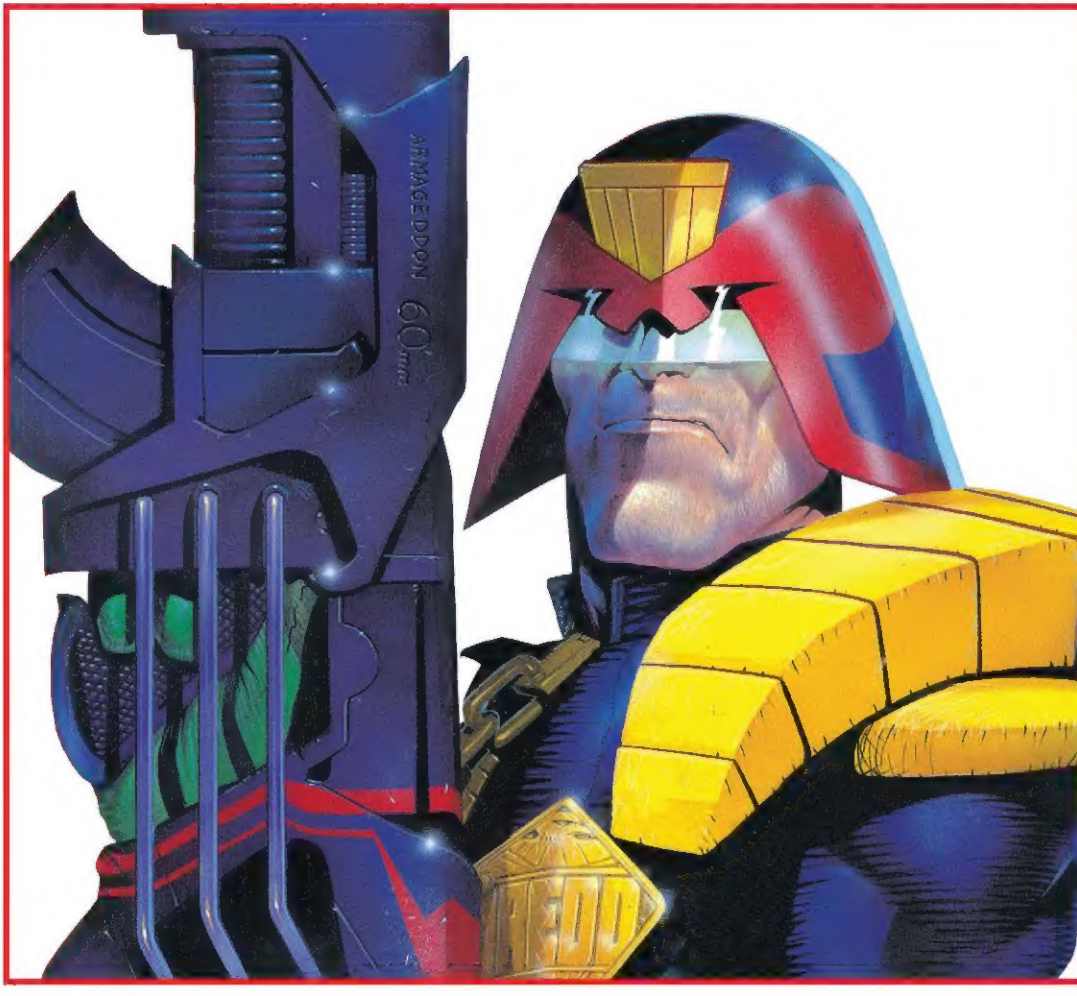
ESSENTIAL

JUDGE DREDD®



AMERICA

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ESSENTIAL

JUDGE DREDD®

AMERICA

JUDGE DREDD CREATED BY JOHN WAGNER & CARLOS EZQUERRA

LETTER FROM A DEMOCRAT

SCRIPT
JOHN WAGNER

ART
JOHN HIGGINS

CO-COLOURIST
SALLY JANE HURST

LETTERS
TOM FRAME

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 2000 AD PROG 460

JUDGE DREDD

ON THE AIR

Dear Gort,
when you read this you'll know I'm dead. Sorry to break it so bluntly, but you know me. Subtle as a brick.

OUR NEXT GUEST ON THE BREAKFAST SHOW IS POP STAR – VID STAR – AUTHOR – AND GENERAL COOL GUY ABOUT TOWN, ROMEO HEPP.

I know you've always thought I take things too seriously.

"Relax. Stop worrying. There's no point fighting. You can't beat Justice Dept." That's your motto, isn't it, Gort?

ROMEO, HOW MANY WOMEN WOULD YOU SAY YOU'VE LOVED?

I'M BISHOP DESMOND SNODGRASS, ACTUALLY.

Well, I can't live like that anymore.

THE STUDIO HAS TWO SECURITY DROIDS. READY TO TAKE 'EM?

CHECK!

CHECK!

STUDIO B

YOU OKAY, HESTER?

A LITTLE NERVOUS. I'LL COPE.

RIGHT. LET'S DO IT!

FZAAAKK!

GROVER
JOHN HIGGINS
T FRAME

LETTER FROM A DEMOCRAT

DEMOCRACY!

SECURITY

I don't know when I first began to think of taking action...

...I suppose it was that time when we were picnicking in the block park and little Simson threw his ball and it hit that judge...

We both went white. Remember, Gort – remember how afraid we were ? How helpless we felt ?
He let Simson off with a caution, thank God. But suddenly I had a vision... a vision of little Simson and baby Gort, growing up in a world like ours...
...Afraid to talk. Afraid to move. Afraid to do anything. Always knowing the judges were there, watching, waiting to pounce.
BURKE
And that's not the life I want for our boys, Gort.
NOBODY MOVE! NOBODY GETS HURT!
OH MY GOODNESS!
IT'S HAPPENING LIVE ON THE BREAKFAST SHOW...!
SHADDUP!
YOU! KEEP THAT CAMERA ROLLING OR MISS CUTESY-CUTESY GETS SCRAMBLED BRAINS FOR BREAKFAST!
HESTER! READ THE MESSAGE!
WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC TENDENCY, BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME TO STAND AGAINST THE TYRANNY OF THE JUDGES!
IT IS TIME TO REMOVE POWER FROM OUR SELF-ELECTED OVERLORDS AND RETURN IT WHERE IT BELONGS – IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE!
WE DEMAND A NEW CHARTER FOR THE CITIZENS OF MEGA-CITY ONE...

ONE – AN IMMEDIATE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. THE PEOPLE MUST CONTROL THE JUDGES! THE JUDGES SHOULD NOT CONTROL THE PEOPLE!
TERRORIST ATTACK, CHANNEL 48!
ATTENTION ALL UNITS VICINITY 48 BUILDING! HOSTAGE SITUATION IN PROGRESS!
STN 48
DREDD RESPONDING!
9TH FLOOR! STUDIO B!
COMMIS
LOADA RUBBISH! SWITCHA CHANNEL!
THREE – A REPEAL OF THE HARSH PENALTIES FOR MINOR INFRINGEMENTS –
Fido
THE DEMOCRATIC TENDENCY HAVE TAKEN THIS ACTION WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE. WE HAVE HURT NO ONE. WE ARE MERELY TRYING TO STAND UP FOR THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY.

PICTURE'S GONE. JUDGES ARE JAMMING US!
DOESN'T MATTER! WE GOT OUR MESSAGE ACROSS!
YOU IN THERE! RELEASE THE HOSTAGES AND SURRENDER OR WE COME IN SHOOTING!
WHAT DO WE DO?
PRACTISE WHAT WE PREACH. WE PUT IT TO A VOTE.
I'm not the only one who feels this way. There are others. People who aren't afraid to fight for their ideals.
WE'VE TALKED THIS ALL OVER. IF WE SURRENDER, IT'S ALL BEEN POINTLESS. WE'LL BE FORGOTTEN TOMORROW. WE HAVE TO DIE.
All those Tuesdays you thought I was at the Welfare Club, we were meeting - planning...
AGREED. NO SURRENDER.
NO SURRENDER.
...and today those plans will bear fruit.
PEOPLE ONLY REMEMBER MARTYRS. WE DIE.

NO EXIT
YOU WANT US, HITLER, COME AND GET US !
DONE.
AAAAAAHH !
DEMOCRACY OR...
...DEATH...
BLOCK UK
WE FOUND THIS LETTER ON YOUR WIFE'S BODY. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DEMOCRATS ?

I-I'D NO IDEA...
SHE TOLD ME TO WATCH THE BREAKFAST SHOW THIS MORNING. I-I DIDN'T KNOW WHY UNTIL... UNTIL...
SHE WASN'T A BAD WOMAN, JUDGE DREDD. SHE JUST HAD THESE CRAZY, MIXED-UP IDEAS...
THEN LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU, CITIZEN. DEMOCRACY'S NOT FOR THE PEOPLE.
CONTROL! RECKON GORT HYMAN'S IN THE CLEAR.
BETTER KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THE TWO BOYS, THOUGH. NO TELLING WHAT BAD HABITS THEY'VE PICKED UP FROM THEIR MOTHER.
ONE BAD APPLE, EH? WILCO.
Am I wrong, Gort, leaving you and the boys when you need me most? And for what – a futile gesture?
If I am, please forgive me. But you see, darling, somebody's got to speak up. Somebody's got to start the ball rolling or things will never change.
Kiss the boys goodbye for me. Tell them I loved them. There's nothing I would have liked better than to stay and watch them grow up.
But what kind of mother could stand by and see her babies grow up into frightened, beaten people like us?
Goodbye, Gort. Your loving wife, Hester

REVOLUTION

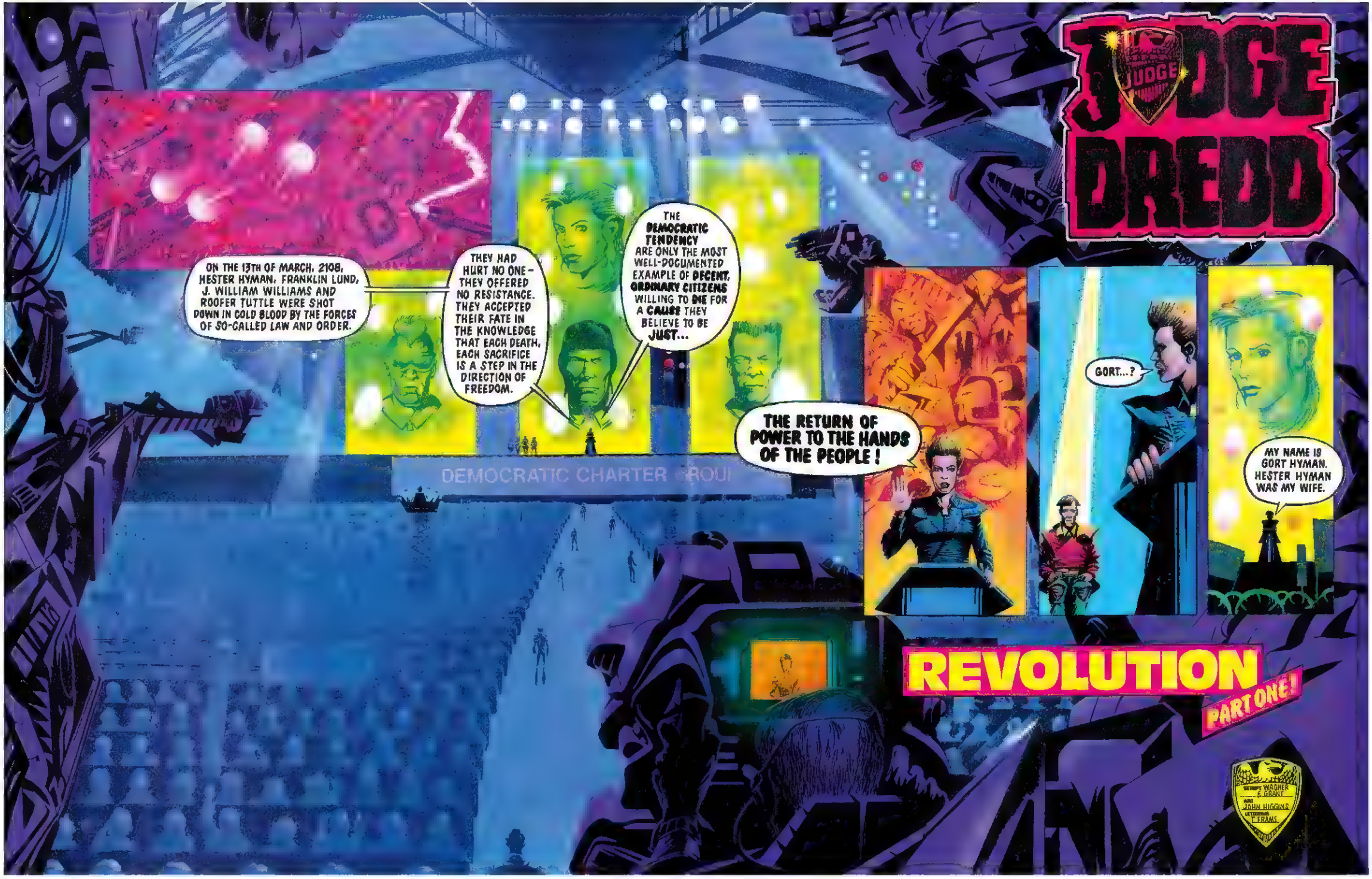
SCRIPT
JOHN WAGNER & ALAN GRANT

ART
JOHN HIGGINS

COLOURIST
[illegible] JANE HURST

LETTERS
TOM FRAME

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 2000 AD PROGS 531-533


JUDGE DREDD
ON THE 13TH OF MARCH, 2108, HESTER HYMAN, FRANKLIN LUND, J. WILLIAM WILLIAMS AND ROOFER TUTTLE WERE SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD BY THE FORCES OF SO-CALLED LAW AND ORDER.
THEY HAD HURT NO ONE - THEY OFFERED NO RESISTANCE. THEY ACCEPTED THEIR FATE IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT EACH DEATH, EACH SACRIFICE IS A STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF FREEDOM.
THE DEMOCRATIC TENDENCY ARE ONLY THE MOST WELL-DOCUMENTED EXAMPLE OF DECENT, ORDINARY CITIZENS WILLING TO DIE FOR A CAUSE THEY BELIEVE TO BE JUST...
DEMOCRATIC CHARTER GROUP
THE RETURN OF POWER TO THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE!
GORT...?
MY NAME IS GORT HYMAN. HESTER HYMAN WAS MY WIFE.
REVOLUTION
PART ONE!
SCRIPT WAGNER & GRANT
ART JOHN HIGGINS
LETTERING T. FRAME

I USED TO BE YOUR AVERAGE KIND OF JOE CIT – JUST GETTING ALONG, KEEPING MY HEAD DOWN, DOING MY BEST TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE.
SURE, I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY THINGS WERE, BUT YOU CAN'T BUCK JUST.CE DEPARTMENT. THAT WAS MY MOTTO
TIKA TAKA TIKA
WHEN . WHEN HESTER GOT KILLED IT SHOOK ME. I MEAN, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THIS DEMOCRATIC TENDENCY.
WHY HADN'T SHE TOLD ME ? WHAT RIGHT DID SHE HAVE ABANDON NG US OVER SOME... SOME HARE-BRAINED PRINCIPLE ?
IT WAS WEEKS BEFORE I COULD THINK STRAIGHT – BEFORE I COULD BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND WHY SHE DID IT .. YOU SEE, HESTER LOVED OUR KIDS AND SHE'D NEVER HAVE RUN OUT ON THEM IF THERE WAS ANY OTHER WAY
BUT SHE LOOKED AT THIS WORLD – SHE SAW OUR KIDS GROWING UP .N .T. TURNING INTO PEOPLE LIKE US GOOD FOR TAKING ORDERS, DOING WHAT WE'RE TOLD FRIGHTENED PEOPLE, CRUSHED BY THE CITY, CRUSHED BY OUR SELF-APPOINTED OVERLORDS, THE JUDGES...
HESTER SAW OUR KIDS' FUTURE AND IT TERRIFIED HER AND BECAUSE SHE LOVED THEM SHE CHOSE TO SACRIFICE HER LIFE TO CHANGE IT !
WHEN A GOOD MOTHER MUST DIE TO CHANGE THE SOCIETY HER KIDS GROW UP IN, SOMETHING IS BADLY WRONG WITH THAT SOCIETY! WE'VE LIVED IN FEAR OF THE JUDGES TOO LONG ! IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED !
DEMOCRACY!

I HAVE IN MY HAND THE CHARTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC TENDENCY. IT CALLS FOR AN END TO THE TYRANNY OF THE JUDGES AND AN IMMEDIATE RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES!
IT CALLS FOR THE RETURN OF BASIC FREEDOMS TAKEN AWAY OVER DECADES OF OPPRESSION!
IT CALLS FOR A REPEAL OF THE HARSH PENALTIES FOR MINOR INFRINGEMENTS!
IT CALLS FOR A CITY GOVERNED FOR THE PEOPLE, BY THE PEOPLE!
WE SEEN 'IS BEFORE! SWITCHA CHANNEL!
THAT IS WHY WE, THE LEADERSHIP OF THE HESTER HYMAN TRUST - THE SONS OF THE CONSTITUTION - THE FREEDOM LEAGUE - THE DEMOCRATIC URGE - THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE GATHERED HERE TODAY TO REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT!
TOMORROW AT NOON WE WILL MARCH UPON THE HALL OF JUSTICE TO PRESENT THE JUDGES WITH OUR DEMANDS AS EMBODIED IN THIS CHARTER.
THERE WILL BE NO VIOLENCE. WE WILL GIVE THEM NO EXCUSE TO BEAT US DOWN WITH THEIR GUNS AND THEIR DAYSTICKS
WE WILL MARCH NOT WITH THE CLENCHED FIST OF ANGER, BUT WITH THE OPEN PALM OF PEACE - YET OUR DEMANDS WILL SOUND NO LESS LOUDLY...
POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
WE ASK YOU TO JOIN US! SPREAD THE WORD! LET THE WHOLE CITY KNOW!
SPREAD THE WORD!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE, BABY!

CHIEF JUDGE SILVER, WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THE STATEMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC CHARTER GROUP ?
DEMOCRACY... HMMPH !
IT'S AN OLD CHESTNUT THERE'S ALWAYS SOME LUNATIC GROUP DRAGGING IT OUT OF THE FIRE
WE'VE TRIED DEMOCRACY BEFORE. BELIEVE ME, IT DOESN'T WORK
PRESS
PRESS
THIS... FALLACY THAT WE'RE SOMEHOW THE ENEMY OF THE PEOPLE – COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG WHY, WE'RE THEIR BEST FRIENDS.
C-COULD YOU REPEAT THAT, SIR ?
NO. IF WE KEEP A TIGHT GRIP ON THE PEOPLE IT IS FOR THEIR OWN GOOD. WITHOUT US, THE CITY WOULD COLLAPSE INTO CHAOS AND ANARCHY
AND THE MARCH, SIR ?
IT HAS HAPPENED BEFORE AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ALLOWING IT TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
WE ARE NOT TYRANTS. WE DO NOT SEEK TO DENY OUR CITIZENS THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION
LET THEM MARCH. AS LONG AS THEY REMAIN WITHIN THE LAW, THEY WILL BE TOLERATED.

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH. NO MORE QUESTIONS
GET DREDD IN HERE
IF WE ALLOW A DANGEROUS IDEA LIKE DEMOCRACY TO TAKE A HOLD ON THE PEOPLE, WE'RE LOST, DREDD. I CONSIDER IT THE GREATEST THREAT TO THIS CITY SINCE THE APOCALYPSE WAR.
WHILE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO COME OUT AND OPENLY BAN THE MARCH, I AM AUTHORISING YOU TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION YOU DEEM NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT SUCCEED
DOES THAT INCLUDE EXCEEDING THE LAW?
I WANT THIS MOVEMENT CRUSHED, DREDD ON THIS ONE YOU WRITE THE LAW

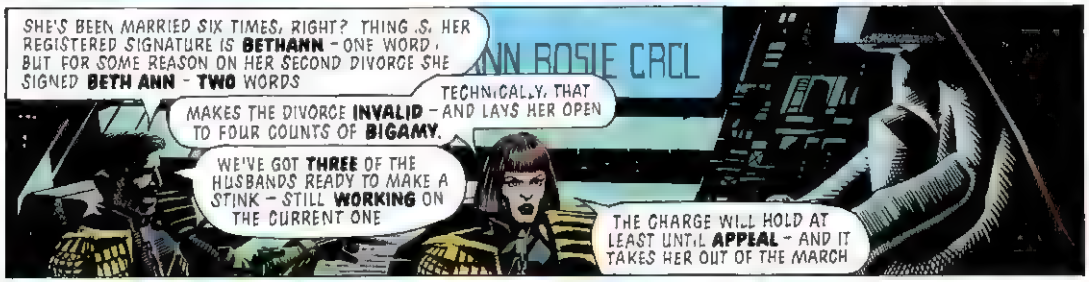
DREDD GATHERS AN OPERATIONS TEAM –
I SEE NO POINT IN PUSSYFOOTING AROUND. WHY CAN'T WE JUST SLAP AN ORDER ON THEM?
NO, I MUST AGREE WITH THE CHIEF JUDGE

THE DEMOCRATS HAVE GOT THIS CITY INFLAMED ENOUGH AS IT IS. YOU'VE SEEN WHAT IT'S LIKE OUT THERE –
YEAH REAL QUIET

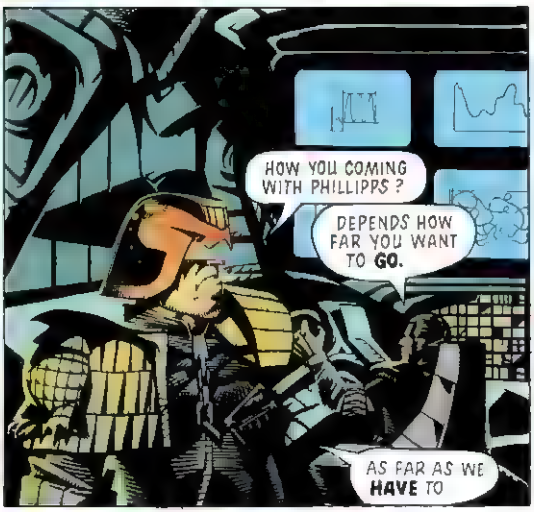
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT HARDLY A CRIME – HARDLY A PERP IN SIGHT. STREETS NEARLY EMPTY. LIKE THEY'RE ALL STAYING IN, BUILDING THEMSELVES UP FOR TOMORROW
THERE'S A READY-MADE RIOT JUST WAITING TO HAPPEN WHETHER WE START IT OR NOT. WE CAN'T BE SEEN TO DO SO

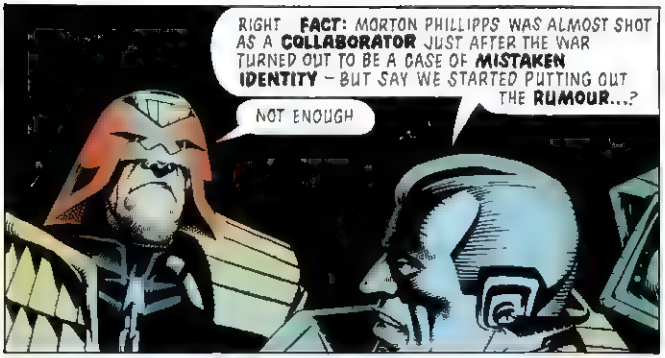
NO, WE'LL START WORKING ON THE **LEADERS** - PICK THEM OFF ONE BY ONE BUT THE MARCH GOES **AHEAD**.
WE'LL USE IT AS A GLARING EXAMPLE OF THE **DANGERS** OF DEMOCRACY!

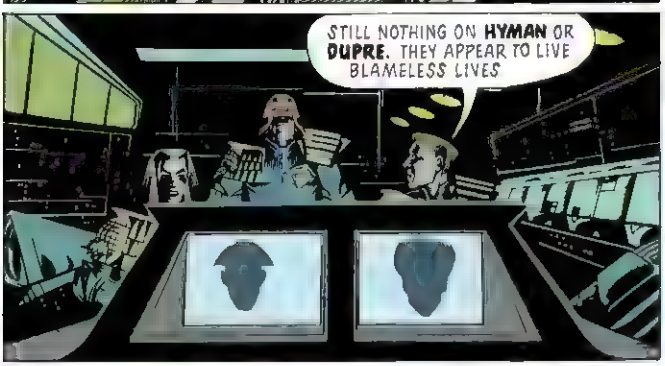
DREDD'S TEAM WORK TIRELESSLY THROUGH THE NIGHT -
GOT SOMETHING JUICY ON **BETHANN ROSIE**, THE CIVIL LIBERTIES WOMAN

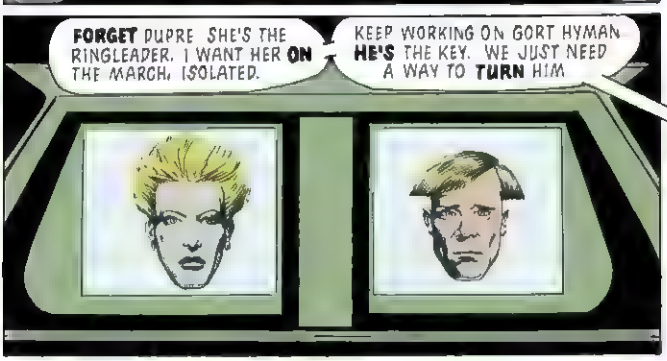

SHE'S BEEN MARRIED SIX TIMES, RIGHT? THING IS, HER REGISTERED SIGNATURE IS **BETHANN** - ONE WORD, BUT FOR SOME REASON ON HER SECOND DIVORCE SHE SIGNED **BETH ANN** - **TWO** WORDS
TECHNICALLY, THAT MAKES THE DIVORCE **INVALID** - AND LAYS HER OPEN TO FOUR COUNTS OF **BIGAMY**.
WE'VE GOT **THREE** OF THE HUSBANDS READY TO MAKE A STINK - STILL **WORKING** ON THE CURRENT ONE
THE CHARGE WILL HOLD AT LEAST UNTIL **APPEAL** - AND IT TAKES HER OUT OF THE MARCH

AND WE KEEP **OUR** HANDS CLEAN THE CITIZENS AREN'T GOING TO START RIOTING WHEN WE PICK UP A FOUR-TIME **BIGAMIST**.
GOOD WORK MAKE THE ARREST


HOW YOU COMING WITH PHILLIPPS ?
DEPENDS HOW FAR YOU WANT TO **GO**.
AS FAR AS WE **HAVE** TO


RIGHT. FACT: MORTON PHILLIPPS WAS ALMOST SHOT AS A COLLABORATOR JUST AFTER THE WAR TURNED OUT TO BE A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY – BUT SAY WE STARTED PUTTING OUT THE RUMOUR...?
NOT ENOUGH



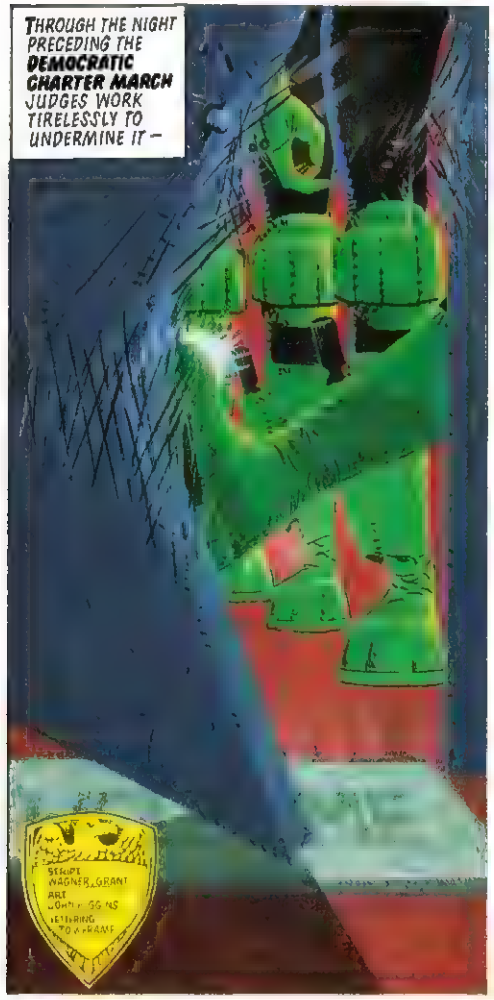

FORGET DUPRE SHE'S THE RINGLEADER. I WANT HER ON THE MARCH, ISOLATED.
KEEP WORKING ON GORT HYMAN HE'S THE KEY. WE JUST NEED A WAY TO TURN HIM

THE IMAGE, THE INSP.RATION THAT FIRES THE WHOLE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT – .S THAT OF HESTER HYMAN. I INTEND TO DESTROY THAT IMAGE
NTEND TO MAKE GORT HYMAN BETRAY HER

NEXT PROG: **CIVIL LIBERTIES!**

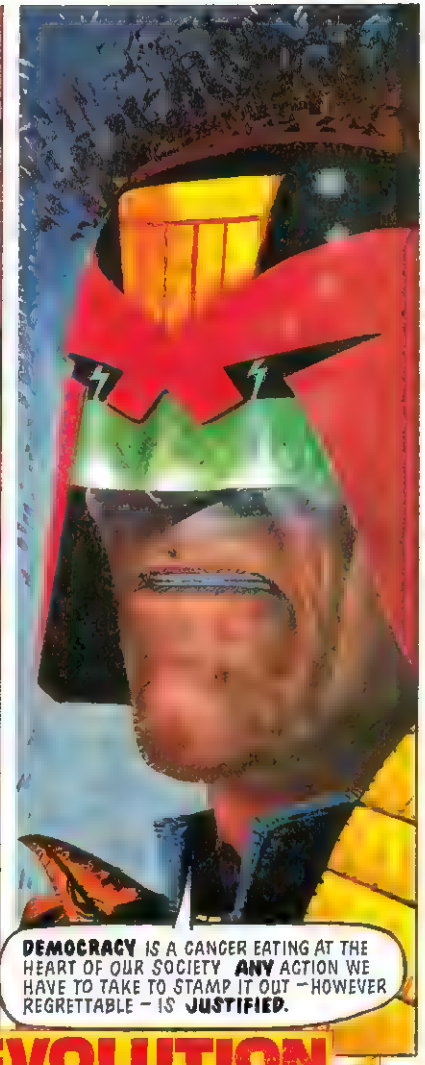
A CRY FROM THE CITY...
PROG 531
18 JULY 87
2000 AD
FEATURING JUDGE DREDD
28p
EARTH MONEY
IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY
ER DEMOCRACY

JUDGE DREDD

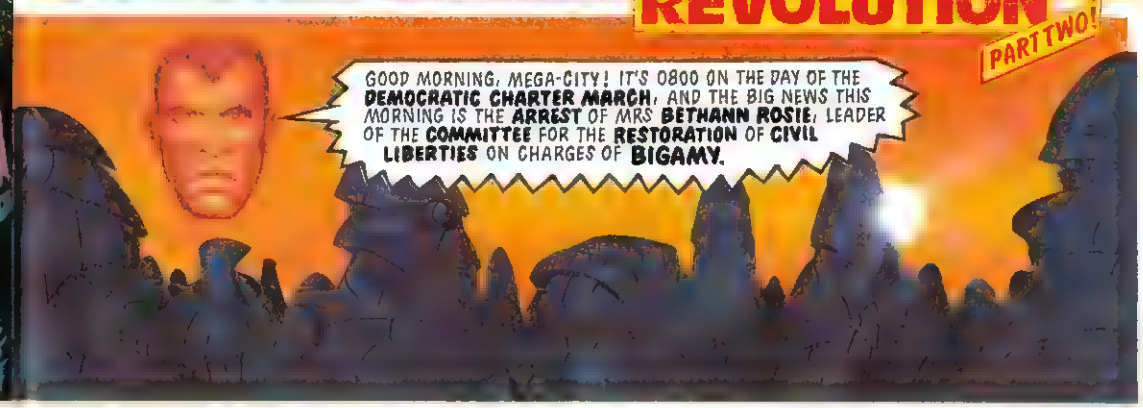

THROUGH THE NIGHT PRECEDING THE DEMOCRATIC CHARTER MARCH JUDGES WORK TIRELESSLY TO UNDERMINE IT –
SCRIPT WAGNER, GRANT
ART
LETTERING

A VID SLUG CHARGE? IF THIS IS YOUR WAY OF KEEPING ME OUT OF THE MARCH, I WARN YOU, THE PEOPLE WON'T STAND FOR IT!
DON'T WORRY, DAVITCEK, YOU'LL BE THERE.

KEEP HIM ON HIS FEET ALL NIGHT NO FOOD, NO WATER, NO SLEEP. RELEASE HIM JUST IN TIME FOR THE MARCH. DO THEM GOOD TO SEE THEIR LEADERS FALLING BY THE WAYSIDE.
BIT ROUGH ON THE OLD CREEP.


DEMOCRACY IS A CANCER EATING AT THE HEART OF OUR SOCIETY. ANY ACTION WE HAVE TO TAKE TO STAMP IT OUT – HOWEVER REGRETTABLE – IS JUSTIFIED.

REVOLUTION PART TWO!


GOOD MORNING, MEGA-CITY! IT'S 0800 ON THE DAY OF THE DEMOCRATIC CHARTER MARCH, AND THE BIG NEWS THIS MORNING IS THE ARREST OF MRS BETHANN ROSIE, LEADER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE RESTORATION OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ON CHARGES OF BIGAMY.

CITIZEN ROSIE, ONE OF THE LEADERS OF TODAY'S MARCH, IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT. MEANWHILE, FOUR OF HER UNFORTUNATE "HUSBANDS" HAVE BEEN MAKING THEIR FEELINGS KNOWN
IT'S DISGRACEFUL!
I FEEL CHEATED — **BETRAYED!** HOW COULD SHE **DO** THIS? I LOVED THAT WOMAN!
YOU HAVE TO WONDER IF SOMEONE OF BETHANN'S LOW MORAL STANDARDS SHOULD BE LEADING ANY KIND OF MARCH
IS THERE ANY TRUTH IN THE SUGGESTION THAT JUDGES HAVE PUT PRESSURE ON YOU TO MAKE THESE STATEMENTS?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS.
SO IT SEEMS OUR RESPECTED CIVIL LIBERTIES LEADER HAS BEEN TAK NG RATHER TOO MANY LIBERTIES HERSELF
MEANWHILE, EVIDENCE IS EMERGING THAT ANOTHER OF THE MARCH ORGAN.SERS IS NOT QUITE WHAT HE SEEMS
MORTON PHILLIPPS CHAIRMAN OF THE **FREEDOM LEAGUE**, CARE TO COMMENT ON THE RUMOJR THAT YOU **COLLABORATED** WITH THE **SOVS** DURING THE LAST WAR?
I DENY IT!
AND HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS PHOTOGRAPH OF YOU WEARING THE UNIFORM OF OUR ENEMIES?

THAT - B-BUT THAT WAS TAKEN AT A DANCE! I WAS IN COSTUME -
LIAR!
I KNOW YOU, MR SOV-LOVER PHILLIPPS! HOW MANY HAVE YOU SENT TO SOV FIRING SQUADS? HOW MUCH BLOOD IS ON YOUR FILTHY HANDS?
B-BUT I'M INNOCENT!
LIAR!
I KNOW YOU TOO, TRAITOR: DID I NOT WATCH YOU SENTENCING EVERY ONE OF MY CITI-DEF TO DEATH?
I-I ASSURE YOU YOU'RE MISTAKEN!
NO MISTAKE!
YOU DON'T FORGET THE MAN WHO PUT THE ROPE AROUND YOUR NECK!
THIS IS PREPOSTEROUS! I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS MAN BEFORE! GO AWAY! LEAVE ME ALONE!
A JUSTICE DEPT SPOKESMAN SAID NO ACTION WAS BEING CONSIDERED AGAINST MR PHILLIPPS
TAKEN WITH THE LACK OF OPPOSITION TO THE FORTHCOMING DEMOCRATIC CHARTER MARCH, THE QUESTION MUST BE ASKED ARE THE JUDGES GOING SOFT? ARE THEY ALLOWING THE FREEDOM OF THE CITIZENS TO BE TAKEN JUST A BIT TOO FAR?

THEY'VE RUINED ME. I CAN'T GO TO THE MARCH NOW!
BUT YOU NEVER DID THOSE THINGS, MORTY!
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THE MUD'LL STICK. MY NAME'S BLACKENED – AND NOBODY WANTS A TRAITOR ON A FREEDOM MARCH
CONTROL! KESTON HERE JOB'S DONE – MORTON PHILLIPPS CAN PUT AWAY HIS HIKING BOOTS.
CHECK RETURN TO BASE DREDD WANTS THE ENTIRE WALLY SQUAD ON DUTY BRIEFING 0900
WALLY SQUAD – JUSTICE DEPT'S UNDERCOVER DIVISION
UNDOUBTEDLY NEWS OF THE DISGRACED LEADERS DISCOURAGES MANY WOULD-BE MARCHERS YET THE MOOD IN THE CITY IS STRONG
BY 10 00 HOURS TRANSPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY POINT IS ALREADY OVERLOADED
EARLY PROJECTIONS PUT THE FINAL FIGURE AT SOMEWHERE IN EXCESS OF 20 MILLION
AMONG THE BANNERS THAT FLY ABOVE THE GATHERING MULTITUDE ONE IMAGE DOMINATES – THAT OF HESTER HYMAN. THE PEOPLE IDENTIFY WITH HER AND DRAW STRENGTH FROM HER COURAGE AND SACRIFICE
MARTYR
DEMOCRACY
SHE DIED FOR US
POWER TO THE PEOPLE
HESTER HYMAN

CITIZEN GORT HYMAN
WHAT DO YOU WANT, DREDD?
A LITTLE CO-OPERATION
CLIK
YOU SEE, HYMAN, FEELINGS ARE RUNN NG PRETTY HIGH OUT THERE — THAT SPEECH YOU MADE DIDN'T HELP MATTERS UNLESS WE CALM THINGS DOWN A LITTLE A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO GET HURT
THAT'S WHERE YOU CAN HELP
SAY YOU WERE TO CHANGE YOUR M ND AND COME OUT **AGAINST** THE MARCH...
YOUR LATE WIFE ACTED FROM THE BEST MOTIVES. OF COURSE. BUT YOU NOW SEE THAT SHE WAS M SG_ DED SHE D.D NOT REALISE THE F_LL AND D SASTROUS MPLICATIONS OF A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY
IN FUTURE THE **HESTER HYMAN TRUST** WILL WORK FOR PEACEFUL CO-OPERATION WITHIN THE PRESENT JUDIC AL SYSTEM
YOU —! YOU'RE TRYING TO GET TO ME THE SAME WAY YOU GOT TO PHILLIPPS AND ROSIE! WELL, YOU'RE **WASTING YOUR TIME!** YOU CAN'T BLACKMAIL ME! I'VE BROKEN NO LAWS — I'VE MADE SURE OF THAT!
YEAH, QUITE A MODEL CITIZEN
YOU'RE SO CLEAN I THOUGHT OF GIVING YOU A MEDAL BUT THEN I THOUGHT OF SOMETHING BETTER HERE —

THEY'RE INDUCTION ORDERS TO THE ACADEMY OF LAW
WITH SUCH A FINE UPSTANDING FATHER THOSE TWO BOYS OF YOURS HAVE GOT TO BE FIRST RATE JUDGE MATERIAL.
NO...
YOU CAN'T! NOT MY BOYS!
I'M SURE YOUR LATE WIFE WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY PROUD OF THEM
YOU'RE MAKING A MOCKERY OF EVERYTHING HESTER STOOD FOR! SO MUCH FOR YOUR PRETENCE OF JUSTICE! YOU'RE CORRUPT - EVIL! YOU'LL DO ANYTHING TO GET YOUR WAY - TO HANG ON TO YOUR PRECIOUS POWER!
WRONG CITIZEN
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT THIS CITY AGAINST DANGEROUS FOOLS LIKE YOU
GORT HYMAN'S STATEMENT ROCKS THE CITY -
...IF ONLY HESTER COULD HAVE SEEN THE CHAOS SHE WAS WISHING ON US ALL WITHOUT WITHOUT THE JUDGES THIS CITY WOULD BECOME A JUNGLE. A NIGHTMARE
I SEE NOW I WAS WRONG. I BEG YOU - THINK AGAIN! DON'T GO ON THIS MARCH OF INSANITY!
GORT: HOW DID THEY GET TO HIM?
MARCH STEWARD

YOU'RE FREE TO GO, CITIZEN
KENZAL!
14
THEY...THEY'VE HAD ME ON MY FEET ALL NIGHT (...I FEEL ILL...
GET HIM A DRINK!
YOU AND I ARE THE ONLY LEADERS LEFT NOW. CAN YOU WALK, KENZAL? WE NEED YOU IN THE MARCH.
I ...'LL TRY.
HYMAN'S DEFECTION CASTS A PALL OF UNCERTAINTY OVER THE PROCEEDINGS. CROWD PROJECTIONS ARE HURRIEDLY REVISED DOWNWARDS
A... THE SAME. BY MIDDAY AN ESTIMATED 16 MILLION MEGA-CITIZENS HAVE GATHERED, FILLING THE BROAD BOULEVARD 14, STRETCHING FOR FIVE KILOMETRES BACK INTO THE NEXT SECTOR.
THEY'VE PULLED EVERY DIRTY TRICK BUT THEY STILL CAN'T STOP US! LOOK AT THIS CROWD! TOO MANY VOICES FOR THEM EVER TO SILENCE!
POWER TO THE PEOPLE
DEMOCRACY
HYMAN
LET'S GO!
FORWARD FOR DEMOCRACY!
NEXT PROG: BLOOD ON THE BOULEVARD!

IT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE REVOLUTION. 16 MILLION MEGA-CITIZENS UNITED IN A COMMON AIM :
AN END TO THE TYRANNY OF THE JUDGES.
A RETURN TO THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY.
POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
REVOLUTION
PART THREE!
JUDGE DREDD
AND THE PEOPLE WITH THE POWER ARE READY AND WAITING –
THE MARCH IS GO ASSAULT UNITS STAND BY

KENZAL!
HE'S WEAK... DAMNED JUDGES! KEEPING THE OLD GUY UP ALL NIGHT ON A TRUMPED-UP CHARGE!
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP GOING, KENZAL! WE'RE THE ONLY TWO LEADERS LEFT NOW!
WE'VE GOT TO CARRY THE FLAG FOR DEMOCRACY!
IT'S TIME
AS THE MULTITUDE SURGES THROUGH REMEMBRANCE SQUARE, STRATEGICALLY-PLACED JUDGES ACTIVATE THEIR SONIC CANNON –
THE LOW FREQUENCY SOUND WAVES ARE UNDETECTABLE THEY HAVE AN UNSETTLING EFFECT ON THE MARCHERS
NOW IS THE TIME
DEI
THE MOOD OF CHEERFUL OPTIMISM DISSIPATES PEOPLE BEGIN TO FEEL UNEASY
SOME, ON THE FRINGES, BEGIN TO DRIFT AWAY
IN THE BODY OF THE MARCH JUSTICE DEPT UNDERCOVER UNITS ARE ALREADY SOWING DISSENSION –
I GOT A BAD FEELIN' ABOUT THIS! AIN'T LIKE THE JUDGES TO STAND BY. THEY'RE PLANNIN' SOMETHING!
WELL, I AIN'T STICKIN' AROUND! DEMOCRACY AIN'T WORTH GETTIN' MY HEAD CRACKED FOR!
CRCL

A STRANGE AIR OF DESPONDENCY SEEMS TO HAVE SETTLED OVER THE CROWD. MOST OF THE SINGING AND CHANTING HAS STOPPED. THERE APPEAR TO BE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE GIVING UP AND MOVING OFF.

COULD IT BE THIS CRY FOR DEMOCRACY IS NOT AS LOUD AS THE LEADERS WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE?

THE MARCH HAS HALTED! THERE'S SOME CONFUSION DOWN THERE! **KENZAL DAVITCEK**, LEADER OF THE **SONS OF THE CONSTITUTION**, APPEARS TO HAVE **COLLAPSED**.

I'M SORRY, BLONDEL.... YOU – YOU'LL HAVE TO GO ON WITHOUT ME...

DAVITCEK'S OUT, DREDD. BLONDEL DUPRE'S ON HER OWN.

CHECK

ASSAULT UNITS: GET READY. LET'S MAKE THIS SHORT AND SWEET.

IN THE CROWD, INFILTRATORS STEP UP THEIR ACTION –

HEAR THE NEWS? OLD DAVITCEK'S **QUIT**! THE **COWARD**!

WHAT KINDA **MARCH** IS THIS ANYWAY WHEN THE LEADERS AIN'T EVEN GOT THE GUTS TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY WE'LL EVER GET WHAT WE WANT FROM THE JUDGES – THAT'S TO **TAKE** IT!

RIGHT ON! DEMOCRACY!

THE VIOLENCE IS CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED. IT SPREADS UP AND DOWN THE LINE –

DOWN WITH THE JUDGES!

FIGHT! FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY!

NO! STOP! YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT INTO THEIR HANDS! THERE MUST BE NO VIOLENCE!

THIS IS INCREDIBLE! THE MARCH IS ERUPTING INTO CHAOS! I CAN SEE A JUDGE GOING DOWN UNDER A HAIL OF MISSILES –
ASSAULT UNITS GO!
THE JUDGES HAVE BEEN STUNG INTO ACTION, AND NOT BEFORE TIME! THEY'RE MOVING IN IN NUMBERS ALL ALONG THE ROUTE!
LEAVE US ALONE! THIS IS A PEACEFUL MARCH!
WAS!
GIVE PEACE A CHANCE!
FAMILY MAN! FAMILY MAN!
STAY DOWN – PLAY DEAD TILL IT'S OVER!
"FAMILY MAN" – THE CODEPHRASE IDENTIFYING JUSTICE DEPT UNDERCOVER UNITS.
THE MARCH BREAKS UP IN DISARRAY PEOPLE PANIC – RUN...

JUDGES ALLOW THEM TO FLEE UNHINDERED. IT IS NOT IN THEIR INTERESTS TO MAKE TOO MANY ARRESTS. EVEN THE ISO-CUBES OF MEGA-CITY ONE HAVE THEIR LIMITS
KEEP 'EM MOVING! ALL THE WAY HOME!
DREDD
THAT NIGHT CHIEF JUDGE SILVER BROADCASTS TO THE CITY –
CITIZENS. IT IS NOT OFTEN A JUDGE HAS TO ADMIT HE HAS BEEN WRONG
I NOW MAKE THAT ADMISSION
AGAINST MY BETTER JUDGEMENT I ALLOWED TODAY'S MARCH TO GO AHEAD IF THE DISGUSTING INCIDENTS WE WITNESSED ARE AN EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRACY AT WORK, THEN I TRUST EVERYONE OF YOU HAS LEARNED A VALUABLE LESSON
FREEDOM IS A FINE IDEAL, BUT TOO MUCH FREEDOM IS A DANGEROUS THING
YES. OUR LAWS ARE HARSH YES, OUR FREEDOMS ARE SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS NOT BECAUSE WE WANT IT THIS WAY – BECAUSE IT MUST BE THIS WAY
THIS AFTERNOON'S EVENTS DEMONSTRATE ONLY TOO CLEARLY WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE RELAX OUR RIGID CONTROL IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE PROMPT ACTION OF MY JUDGES THERE IS NO TELLING WHAT DEVASTATION WOULD HAVE BEEN WREAKED UPON THIS CITY – ALL IN THE NAME OF DEMOCRACY.
SO LET ME HEAR NO MORE COMPLAINT. LET ME HEAR NO VOICES RAISED AGAINST US LET ME INSTEAD HEAR PRAISE FOR THE TRUE GUARDIANS OF OUR FREEDOM – THOSE STALWART SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF JUSTICE DEPT.
AND ABOVE ALL, LET ME HEAR NO MORE FOOL'S TALK OF DEMOCRACY DEMOCRACY IS DEAD.
THE REVOLUTION IS OVER!
GIVE US
DEMOCRACY

IN JUSTICE DEPT SECTOR HOUSES THE MASS OF PRISONERS ARE PROCESSED –
I TELL YOU, I DIDN'T DO NOTHIN'!
WE'LL SEE
THIS IS YOUR DOING YOU SET IT ALL UP!
THAT'S A SERIOUS ACCUSATION, CITIZEN DO YOU HAVE PROOF?
I DON'T NEED PROOF! YOU'RE JUDGES, AREN'T YOU? YOU LIE AND CHEAT AND CONNIVE – YOU DO ANYTHING TO HANG ONTO YOUR PRECIOUS POWER
ANY ACTION WE TAKE TO STAMP OUT PERNICIOUS IDEAS LIKE DEMOCRACY IS JUSTIFIED – FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE PEOPLE?
DOING THINGS YOUR WAY? DOING WHAT WE'RE TOLD? FOLLOWING ORDERS? LIVING IN FEAR ALL OUR LIVES?
TAKE HER AWAY!
MY GRUD, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, DO YOU –?
YOU'VE WON THIS BATTLE, DREDD, BUT THE REVOLUTION ISN'T OVER. OH NO!
YOU CAN BEAT US WITH YOUR BOOTS AND YOUR DAYSTICKS, BUT YOU CAN'T CRUSH OUR IDEALS! FREEDOM – TRUTH – DEMOCRACY – THEY ALL LIVE WHERE YOU CAN'T TOUCH THEM – IN THE HEARTS OF THE PEOPLE!
AND ONE DAY THEY'RE GOING TO BEAT YOU!
THE END... OF THE BEGINNING

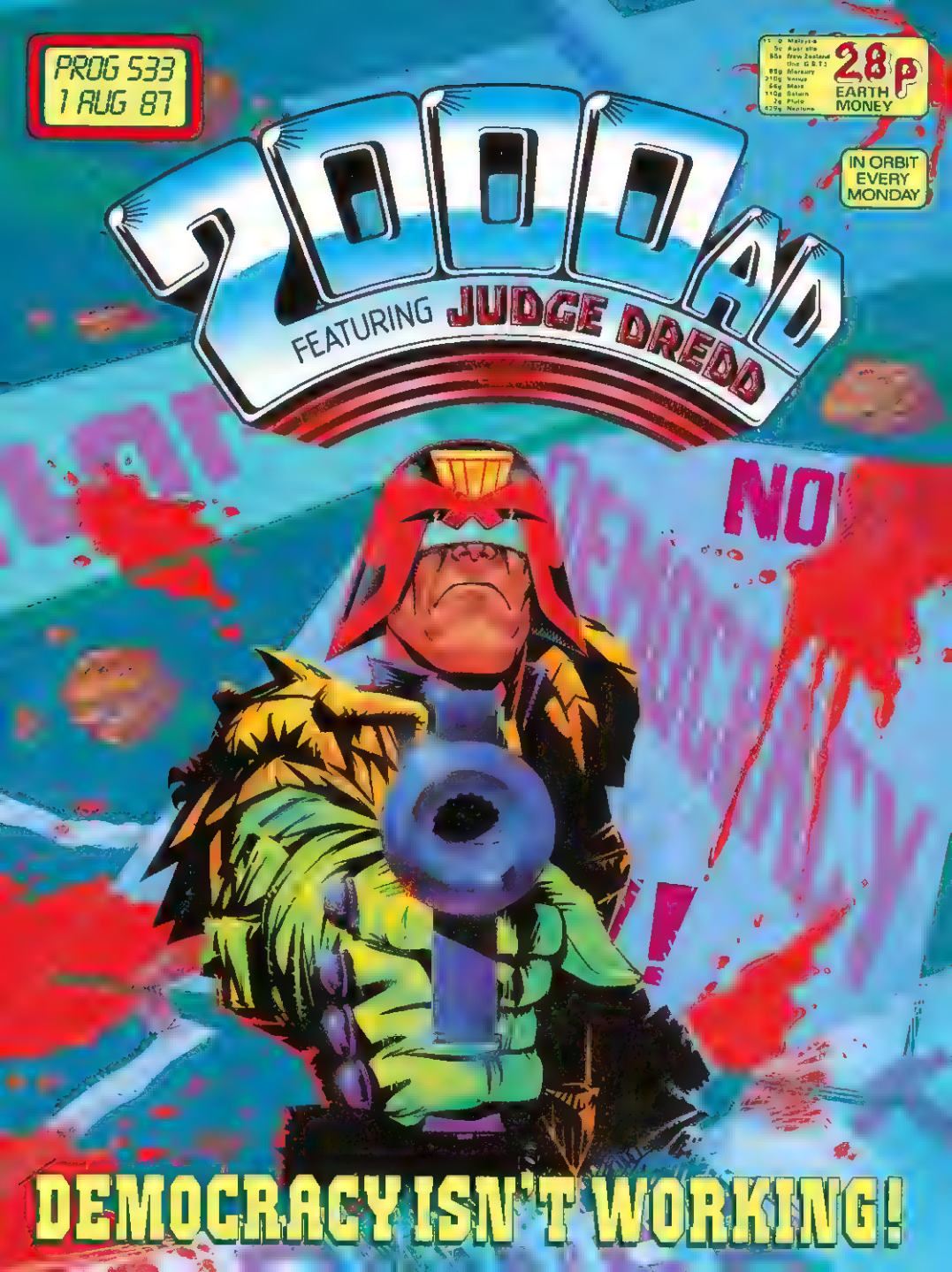
PROG 533
1 AUG 87

28p
EARTH MONEY

IN ORBIT EVERY MONDAY

2000 AD

FEATURING JUDGE DREDD



DEMOCRACY ISN'T WORKING!

POLITICS

SCRIPT
IAN GRAN

ART
JEFF ANDERSON

LETTERS
TOM FRAME

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 2000 AD PROG 656

JUDGE DREDD
POLITICS
VANILLA BATCAVE
FRIENDS, ROMANS, MEGA-CITIZENS – LEND ME YOUR EARS!
I COME NOT TO BURY DEMOCRACY – BUT TO PRAISE IT!
AS A FAMOUS MOVIE WRITER ONCE SAID: THE QUALITY OF DEMOCRACY IS NOT STRAINED IT DROPS LIKE RAIN OR SOMETHING UPON THE CITY BELOW!
NOW I'M NOT PREACHING REVOLUTION FOR ONE THING, I'D BE CUBED IF I DID. ALL I'M SAYING IS – SEE MY LATEST MOVIE, "TRAINS, PLANES AND DEMOCRATS" THINK ABOUT IT
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, WHY, NO PROBLEM. IF YOU DO, GO SEE THE SEQUEL – BUY THE VIDSLUG, THE BOOK THE COMIC, THE BADGES, THE UNDERWEAR. .
AND ASK YOURSELF – WHAT MIGHT DEMOCRACY MEAN TO ME ?
HEY, WHATTA DOLL, HUH, JUDGE?
IF SHE BELIEVES WHAT SHE'S SAYING, SHE'S A FOOL AN' IF YOU BELIEVE IT, YOU'RE A BIGGER FOOL!
SEZ YOU! VANILLA BATCAVE COULD TELL ME TO THINK OF RANCID DOGMEAT AN' I'D BE HAPPY TO!
YOU GOT SUCH A DOWN ON HER, WHY DONCHA ARREST HER? BOY, YOU'D SOON FIND OUT WHAT TROUBLE IS!
LISTEN, CHUMP – AN' LISTEN GOOD! SHE HASN'T BROKEN ANY LAW . YET MOMENT SHE DOES, WE'LL BE DOWN ON HER LIKE A TON OF MUNCE!
AND IF YOU OR ANY OF YOUR RADICAL BUDDIES INTERFERE, YOU'LL BE COUNTIN' YOUR VOTES IN A CUBE FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS!

WHAT THE DROKK ?
EVERYBODY DOWN! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
THEY GOT MURRAY!
KEEP OUT OF THE WAY OF THOSE BEAMS! HIT 'EM WITH EVERYTHING YOU GOT!
IT'S NO GOOD: THEY'RE USIN' FORCE SHIELDS!

LAWGIVERS TO HI-EX! BLAST 'EM OUT OF THE AIR, IN THE NAME OF THE L
AAAUUGH!
AAAHHH!
ONE MAN ONE VOTE

NOBODY MOVE — NOBODY INTERFERE — AN' NOBODY ELSE GETS HURT!
MAKE IT EASY ON YASSELF, LADY! COME QUIET!
OAMYGRUD! K-KEEP BACK FROM ME!
SO PLAY IT THE HARD WAY!
ANYBODY WANTS TA KNOW — TELL 'EM THE SONS OF THE IRON LADY TOOK HER!
AN' IF YA GOT ANY SENSE, DON'T THINK ABOUT DEMOCRACY!
ALL RIGHT — LINE UP ORDERLY! WE WANT STATEMENTS FROM EVERY ONE OF YOU ABOUT WHAT WENT DOWN HERE!

TWO MINUTES TO RENDEZVOUS THINK HE'LL MAKE IT ?
I'D BET ON IT – IF GAMBLIN' WASN'T ILLEGAL !
THERE HE IS NOW !
SHE'S ALL YOURS ONE DEMOCRATIC VIDSTAR
"DO YOUR WORST "
--GANG GRABBED VIDSTAR-CUM-BUDDING-POLITICO VANILLA BATCAVE : SEVERAL JUDGES INJURED IN THE ATTACK – INCLUDING SENIOR LAWMAN JUDGE DREDD – ARE SAID TO BE STABLE IN MED-BAY !
THE PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD OF SONS OF THE IRON LADY ARE THOUGHT TO BE AN EXTREME RIGHTWING ORGANISATION IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR NEAREST JUDGE !
NOW... DO YOU SUFFER FROM BLOCKED BOWELS ?
IF SO, WHY NOT TRY BUSTAGU -- KLIK '
WELCOME BACK, CITIZEN !
YOU !

ME
BUT HOW ..? I MEAN – I SAW YOU SHOT!
WHAT . WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON HERE? HAVE I BEEN RESCUED
OR WHAT?
THE ASSAULT SQUAD – THE SO-CALLED SONS OF THE IRON LADY – ARE UNDER-COVER JUDGES THEIR GUNS FIRED HARMLESS LIGHT BEAMS
THEN – IT WAS ALL A PHONEY! YOU SET ME UP! BUT WHY? WHY?
CITIZEN VANILLA BATCAVE, YOU ARE HEREBY SENTENCED TO REMEDIAL ELECTRO-SHOCK THERAPY AND FACE-CHANGE. YOU WILL BE REHABILITATED AND DEPORTED TO AN OFF-WORLD COLONY!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? THERE'S NO ROOM FOR DEMOCRACY IN THIS SOCIETY TO EVEN ASK THEM TO THINK ABOUT IT IS TO INVITE DISSATISFACTION – DISOBEDIENCE – REBELLION!
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CAN'T ALLOW THAT
BUT YOU CAN'T DO THIS! I BROKE NO LAW! IT ISN'T FAIR!
POLITICS IS A DIRTY BUSINESS, CITIZEN...
AND DEMOCRACY JUST AIN'T WORTH IT.
THE END

AMERICA

SCRIPT
JOHN WAGNER

ART
COLIN MACNEIL

LETTERS
ANNIE PARKHOUSE

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN JUDGE DREDD MEGAZINE 1.01-1.07

WHERE DO I STAND?
I'LL TELL YOU WHERE I STAND.
I STAND FOUR-SQUARE FOR JUSTICE. I STAND FOR DISCIPLINE, GOOD ORDER AND THE RIGID APPLICATION OF THE LAW — AND GRUD HELP ANY LIMP-WRIST LIBERALS WHO SAY DIFFERENT
THE PEOPLE. THEY KNOW WHERE I STAND. THEY NEED RULES TO LIVE BY — I PROVIDE THEM. THEY BREAK THE RULES, I BREAK THEM. THAT'S THE WAY IT WORKS.
THE PEOPLE LIKE IT THAT WAY. THEY NEED TO KNOW WHERE THEY STAND.
RIGHTS?
SURE. I'M ALL FOR RIGHTS. BUT NOT AT THE EXPENSE OF ORDER.
THAT'S WHY I LIKE TO SEE THAT STATUE OF JUDGEMENT STANDING THERE, TOWERING OVER LIBERTY.
KIND OF A SYMBOL.

JUSTICE HAS A PRICE
THE PRICE IS FREEDOM

THIS IS A LOVE STORY.
TALK OF THE MEGA
BENNETT
I'M GOING TO TELL YOU HOW I LOVED A WOMAN... LOVED HER FROM THE FIRST MOMENT I CAN REMEMBER — LOVE HER STILL. THOUGH THE SPARK THAT ANIMATED HER HAS LONG SINCE BEEN CRUSHED OUT.
AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW I BETRAYED HER — AND WHEN I'VE FINISHED YOU'LL DESPISE ME FOR WHAT I DID.

I WAS FOOLISH THEN. I DIDN'T—OR WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT I'M NOT TRYING TO EXCUSE MYSELF. PLEASE, HATE AWAY. I DESERVE IT.
THOUGH WHETHER ANY MAN DESERVES THE PUNISHMENT I INFLICTED ON MYSELF... ONLY YOU CAN JUDGE.
AMERICA
TODAY HER EYES STARE BACK AT ME, SAD AND EMPTY... NO TRACE NOW OF THE FIRE THAT ONCE BURNED SO FIERCE IN THEM.
BUT I REMEMBER AMERICA.
I WAS THERE. FROM FIRST TO LAST. FROM THE MOMENT SHE CAME HOWLING INTO THIS SICK WORLD...
I WAS THERE. AT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY...
MADRE GRODDD—!!
PUSH, ALVIEA!
AHHHHH!
ALMOST THERE! ONE MORE TIME!
SHE'S COMIN'!
WAAAAA

WONDERFUL, MRS. JARA! WONDERFUL!
WAY TO GO, ALVIRA!
LOOK AT 'ER! EES THAT NO' A BEAUTIFUL GIRL, EH? EES THAT NO' A BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
A NEW FRIEND FOR YOU, BENNY!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO CALL HER MR. JARA?
WELL, I TELL YOU! WE COME HERE, WE JOS' POOR DUMB 'IMMIES. WE GOT NOTHIN'. THEES CITY, SHE TAKE US EEN — GEEV US SHELTER.
I MEAN, WE STILL AIN'T GOT MOCH MAN, BOT AT LEAST WE GOT HOPE. WE GOT PROSPECTS! WE ARE HERE — AMERICA — THE LAN' O' THE FREE AN' THE BRAVE!
AN' EEN HONOUR OF OUR NEW HOME, THAT'S WHA' WE GONNA CALL HER —
AMERICA!

♫ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA — ♫
AMERICA... HOW LIKE HER NAME HER LIFE WOULD BE. THOUGH WE DIDN'T KNOW IT THEN, BORN IN HOPE, WITH A DREAM — DIED IN DISILLUSIONMENT — AND DESPAIR.

LEESEN TO HER! GOT A LOT TO SAY FOR HERSELF ALREADY! SHE GONNA GO FAR, THEES ONE!
AMERICA! AMERICA! GOD SHED HEES GRIEF ON THEE!
THAT'S "GRACE", MR JARA.

EH?
NOT GRIEF — IT'S GRACE. GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE.
OH, YES... SI. SI.

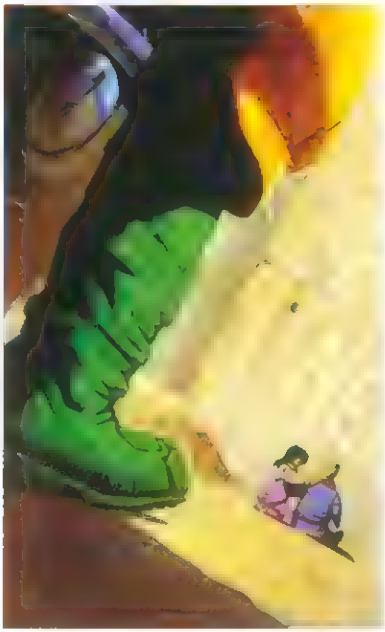
GRACE.

BENNY!

JUDGE COMIN'! SCRAMOLA!

YOU SCUMMERS! DON'T YOU EVER COME BACK HERE AGAIN!

TH-THEY BROKE MY GITTER...
DON'T CEY, BENNY. I'LL BUY YOU A NEW ONE.
TH-THEY COST AN AWFUL LOT, AMI...

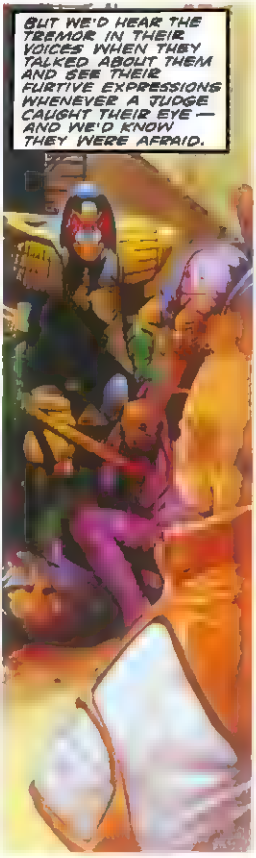


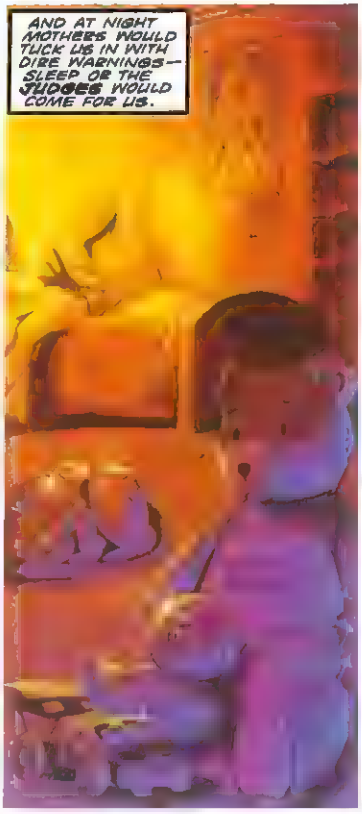
I CAN'T REMEMBER WHEN I FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THE JUDGES.

I SUPPOSE IT'S BECAUSE THEY WERE ALWAYS THERE, A DARK PRESENCE IN THE BACKGROUND OF OUR LIVES — AS MUCH A PART OF GROWING UP AS THE AIR THAT WE BREATHED AND THE STREETS THAT WE PLAYED ON.

WHEREVER WE WENT THEY WERE THERE. WATCHING. ALWAYS WATCHING.
THEY COULD FIX YOU WITH A SPECIAL KIND OF STARE, LIKE THEY COULD LOOK RIGHT INTO YOUR SOUL.

ADULTS, THEY'D TELL US THE JUDGES WERE THERE FOR OUR GOOD, TO PROTECT US AND MAKE OUR STREETS SAFE.


BUT WE'D HEAR THE TREMOR IN THEIR VOICES WHEN THEY TALKED ABOUT THEM AND SEE THEIR FURTIVE EXPRESSIONS WHENEVER A JUDGE CAUGHT THEIR EYE — AND WE'D KNOW THEY WERE AFRAID.


AND AT NIGHT MOTHERS WOULD TUCK US IN WITH DIRE WARNINGS — SLEEP OR THE JUDGES WOULD COME FOR US.

SO WE DIDN'T NEED GHOSTS OR GOBLINS OR VAMPIRES. WE HAD THE JUDGES.
AND THEY WERE WORSE.
WE KNEW THEY DID EXIST.
AND THERE WAS A STRONG POSSIBILITY THEY WOULD COME FOR US.
SO I DON'T REMEMBER WHEN I BECAME AWARE OF THEM, BUT I DO REMEMBER MY FIRST ENCOUNTER. MY STOMACH STILL KNOTS UP WHEN I THINK OF IT. TO THIS SINGLE MOMENT I ATTRIBUTE MY LIFELONG TERROR OF AUTHORITY.
NAME?
B-BENNETT BEENY, SIR. APARTMENT 41-30, FRED NIETZSCHE.
BEEN FIGHTING, SON?
Y-YES, SIR...
YOU LIKE FIGHTING?
N-N-NO, SIR...
WE'VE GOT PLACES WE PUT BOYS WHO FIGHT. YOU WANT TO GO TO THE JUVE CUBES, SON?
N-NO, SIR...
LOCKED UP, ALL BY YOURSELF—
N-NO!
BY GRUD, IF I THOUGHT YOU WERE A TROUBLEMAKER--
ARE YOU A TROUBLE-MAKER, SON?
N-N-NO! PLEASE--! I'M NOT A TROUBLE-MAKER!

P-PLEASE D-DON'T SEND ME TO THE JUVE CUBES! I'M SORRY! I'LL N-N-NEVER FIGHT AGAIN! I PROMISE! PLEASE...
LEAVE HIM ALONE! HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING!
SOME BAD BOYS BEAT HIM UP AND BROKE HIS GITTER! IT'S THEM YOU SHOULD BE CHASING, NOT MAKING BENNY CRY!
WELL, WELL. WORD FROM THE PEANUT GALLERY.
YOU WANT TO WATCH THAT LIP, KID. IT'LL LAND YOU IN TROUBLE.
NAME?
MY NAME IS AMERICA JARA. I LIVE AT APARTMENT 41-31, FRED NIETZSCHE BLOCK— AND I CAN SAY WHAT I LIKE 'COS MY DAD SAYS THIS IS AMERICA AND IT'S A FREE COUNTRY.
YEAH? WHAT CENTURY'S HE LIVING IN?
THIS AIN'T AMERICA ANYMORE, KID. THIS IS MEGA-CITY ONE— AND YOU AND YOUR OLD MAN HAVE GOT A LOT TO LEARN.
CONTROL, WHAT WE GOT ON A BEENY, BENNETT— TWO "T"S— OR JARA, AMERICA— THAT'S A-M-E-R-I-C-A— BOTH RESIDENTS FRED NIETZSCHE? POSSIBLE YP OFFENDERS.
NEGATIVE ON BOTH. BOY'S FATHER ONE EGGAR J. BEENY, DECEASED. VICTIM OF SERIAL KILLER, DAVID DUCHESSE.
I REMEMBER... DAVE THE ORTHODONTIST.
CHECK. STILL GOT BEENY SENIOR'S TEETH IN THE BLACK MUSEUM, IF YOU WANT THEM.
JARA FAMILY ARE IMMIGRANTS, PUERTO RICAN WASTES. STILL DOING TWENTY YEAR PROBATIONARY PERIOD. GIRL'S A LEGAL CITIZEN THOUGH.

HE TOOK A DESCRIPTION OF THE JUVES. I'VE OFTEN WONDERED IF HE EVER CAUGHT THEM.
I DON'T SUPPOSE IT MATTERS.
DON'T WORRY, BENNY. HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU.
STRANGE, HOW TWO PEOPLE CAN BE SO DIFFERENT, YET SO CLOSE.
AMI — BRIGHT AS A BUTTON, AFRAID OF NO-ONE. SHE WAS THE STRONG ONE. SHE NEVER CRIED. SOMEHOW IT ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE ME WHO ENDED IN TEARS...
WH-WHAT IF HE TELLS MY MUM?
SHE WON'T SAY ANYTHING. YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
BUT WE MADE HER CRY, IN THE END. ME AND THE JUDGES.
OH, YES. WE GOT TO HER... IN THE END.
HE WAS A BAD MAN, BENNY.

IT'S A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT EVERY CRIMINAL, EVERY SINGLE PERP THERE EVER WAS, STARTED OUT AS A JUVE. THAT'S WHERE TO CATCH THE PROBLEM.

PUT THE FEAR OF GRUD INTO THEM RIGHT FROM THE START.

I LIKE TO GIVE THEM THE STARE — A LONG, HARD LOOK —

A LOOK THAT SAYS: I KNOW YOU, JUVEY. I'M KEEPING A SPECIAL EYE ON YOU.

MAKE ONE WRONG MOVE AND I'LL BE THERE.

YES, GIVE ME THE JUVE AT FIVE AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE MODEL CITIZEN —

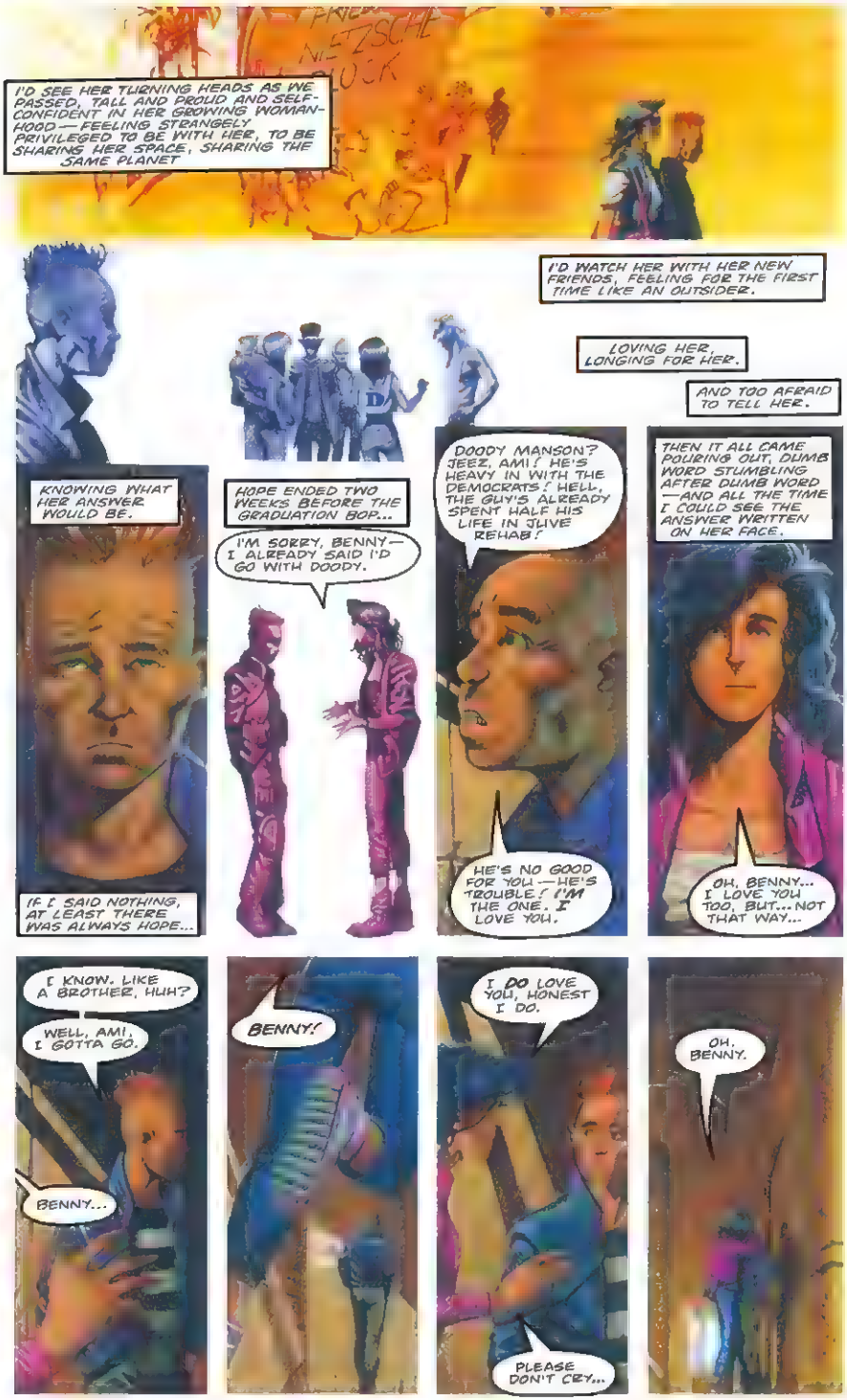
— OR ONE WHO THINKS LONG AND HARD BEFORE HE STEPS OVER THE LINE.

Thomas Jefferson 1743-1826
LIFE — LIBERTY — THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS — THESE THREE GREAT PRINCIPLES UPON WHICH OUR ANCIENT NATION WAS FOUNDED
FE : LIBERTY : PURSUIT OF H
SO WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M SORRY, AMERICA --?
WHERE'S LIBERTY GONE?
I MEAN, YOU DROP A PIECE OF LITTER AND THE JUDGES CAN LOCK YOU UP FOR IT. JAYWALK AND IT'S PRACTICALLY A CAPITAL OFFENCE.
SHE'S OFF AGAIN --!
SHUT UP, GOBBER!
THEY CAN BREAK INTO YOUR HOME ANY TIME THEY LIKE. THEY CAN BEAT YOU UP AND TORTURE YOU --
COME NOW, I THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERATING
--AND GRUD HELP YOU IF YOUR GENETIC CODE DOESN'T MATCH UP TO THEIR HIGH STANDARDS! THEY CALL YOU MUTIE AND BOOT YOU OUT OF THE CITY!
THINGS HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. THERE'S A PERFECTLY GOOD REASON FOR EVERYTHING.
AND HAPPINESS — THERE'S A JOKE! LOOK AROUND YOU! YOU SEE ANY HAPPY FACES?
SO MUCH FOR LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS!
I'M HAPPY, MAN.
YEAH, 'COS YOU'RE DRUNK.
AT LEAST WE'RE STILL ALIVE, AMERICA. ONE OUT OF THREE'S NOT BAD.

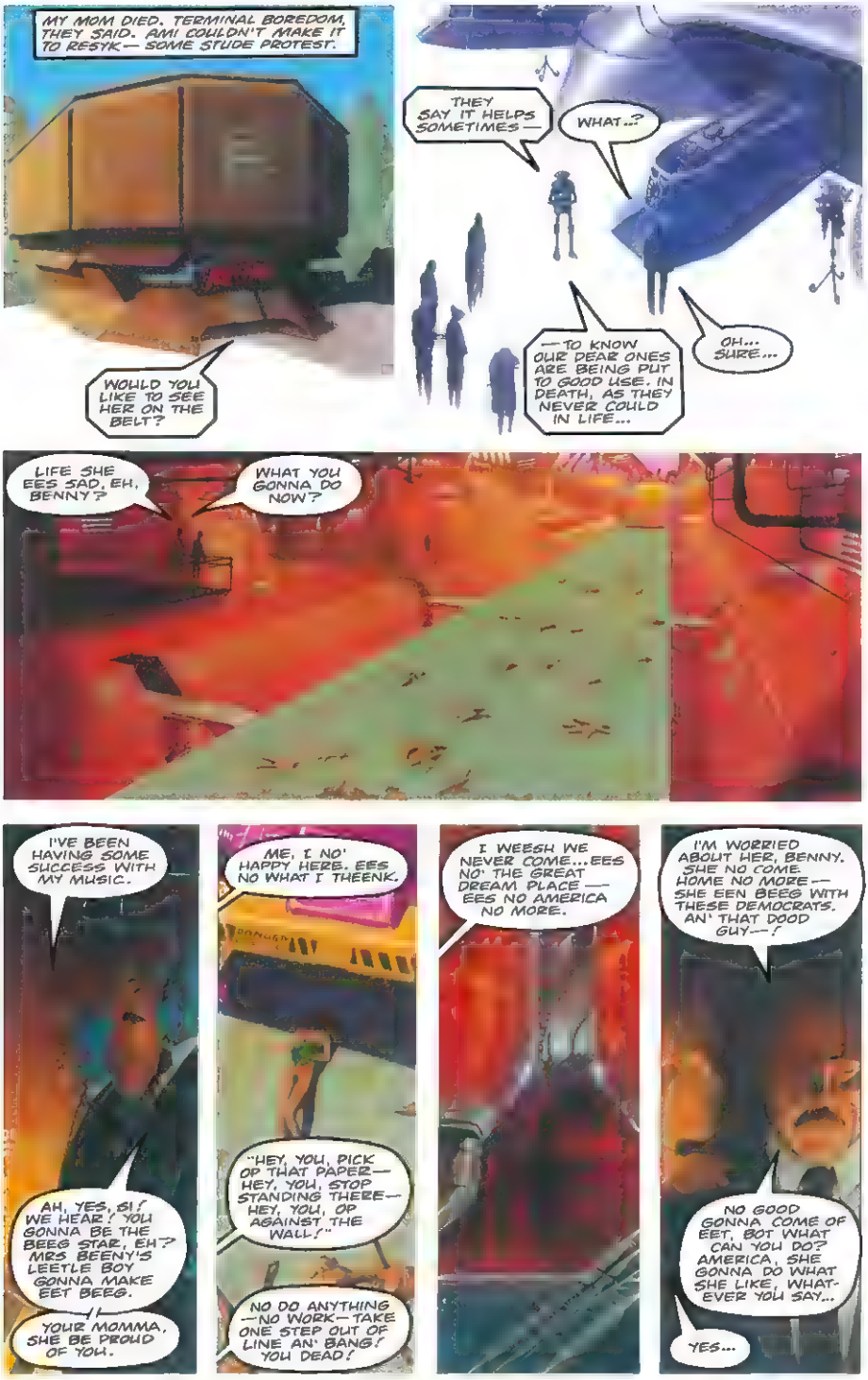
IT MAKES ME SO MAD, BENNY!
HOW DID THE JUDGES GET ALL THAT POWER? THEY JUST TOOK IT! AND NOBODY SEEMS TO GIVE A DAMN!
C'MON, CAN YOU BLAME THEM? WHO WANTS TO TAKE ON JUSTICE DEPARTMENT? IT'S A LOT EASIER JUST TO PLAY IT THEIR WAY. YOU KNOW--
I'M A MEAN OLD JUDGE. MY NAME IS DREDD. DO WHAT YOU'RE TOLD OR I'LL BUST YOUR HEAD! DON'T TALK OF FREEDOM. FREEDOM IS FOR FOOLS. YOU'LL DO MUCH BETTER TO OBEY THESE RULES--
BOW DOWN AND KNUCKLE UNDER! YOU'LL FIND I'M VERY FAIR! SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBER--
JUST PLANT YOUR LIPS RIGHT THERE!
SHE LAUGHED. I CAN PICTURE HER STILL, HER FACE ALL AGLOW. HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE WAS.
DID YOU JUST MAKE THAT UP?
SHE LAUGHED SO LITTLE THOSE DAYS. LIFE WAS ALWAYS SO SERIOUS.
YOU'RE A NATURAL COMIC, BENNY. YOU'VE GOT A REAL TALENT FOR IT...
I JUST WISH I COULD SEE THE FUNNY SIDE OF IT...
DON'T YOU SEE, PEOPLE CAME TO AMERICA TO ESCAPE FROM TYRANNY, TO BE FREE, TO HAVE THE RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES HOW THEY WANTED TO LIVE.
THE JUDGES HAVE TAKEN ALL THAT AWAY FROM US AND NOTHING WILL EVER CHANGE UNLESS WE'RE PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT--STAND UP AND TELL THEM TO KEEP THE HELL OUT OF OUR LIVES!

I'M DOING SOMETHING.
JEEZ, AMI! PUT THEM AWAY!
POSTING BILLS FOR THE DEMOCRATS— ARE YOU CRAZY? THEY CAN LOCK YOU UP FOR THAT!
NOT FOR POSSESSION.
THEY'LL GET YOU ON A BILL-STICKING RAP. YOU KNOW HOW THEY WORK.
JEEZ... THE DEMS! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! YOU START MIXING WITH THEM YOU'RE ASKING FOR TROUBLE!
I BEGGED HER TO STOP. I TRIED TO MAKE HER SEE YOU COULD PLAY IT BY THEIR RULES AND STILL LIVE A GOOD LIFE...
YOU'RE WRONG. LIFE LIBERTY, THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS — THEY'RE NOT JUST EMPTY WORDS. THEY MATTER. PEOPLE DIED TO MAKE SURE THEY'D ALWAYS BE OURS BY RIGHT.
WE CAN DO ALMOST ANYTHING, BENNY... WE CAN FLY. WE CAN TRAVEL TO THE STARS. ARE THEY GOING TO TELL US WE'RE NOT CAPABLE OF TAKING CONTROL OF OUR OWN LIVES..?
THE JUDGES, THEY'RE LIKE A STRAIT-JACKET— THROW THEM OFF AND WE'LL BE FREE AGAIN. IT'S IN OUR HANDS. WE CAN DO IT, IF WE JUST WANT IT ENOUGH.
HOW I LOVED HER, WANTED TO PROTECT HER, TO SAVE HER FROM THE DANGER SHE WAS RUSHING HEADLONG INTO.

I WENT WITH HER ONCE... THREE HOURS OF GUT-WRENCHING TERROR.
SHE NEVER ASKED ME TO GO AGAIN, AND I WAS GRATEFUL.
BY 15 SHE'D PICKED UP HER FIRST CONVICTION — ILLEGAL POSTING. THREE MONTHS JUVE CUBES PLUS MANDATORY REHAB. SHE WAS STARTING TO BE A MARKED TROUBLEMAKER
SHE'D COME OUT OF THE CLOSET, HANGING ROUND WITH ALL THE DEMMY CROWD AND FLAUNTING DEM STICKERS ON HER BAG.
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY CHILDHOOD ENDED. AMI AND I WERE DRIFTING APART. I WATCHED IT HAPPENING, HATING IT. POWERLESS TO PREVENT IT.
OH AMI, COWARD THAT I AM I'D HAVE JOINED THE DAMNED DEMS IF IT MEANT I COULD HAVE HAD YOU. I'D HAVE MARCHED WITH YOU AND FOUGHT WITH YOU AND DIED WITH YOU...
YET PART OF ME ALWAYS KNEW IT WAS ONLY A DREAM, A FOOL'S DREAM. SHE WAS LIGHT AND FIRE AND LIGHTNING. AND ME — JUST DULL OLD BENNY BEENY.
THE FLAME THAT BURNED IN AMERICA WAS TOO BRIGHT FOR ME EVER TO HOLD.


I'D SEE HER TURNING HEADS AS WE PASSED, TALL AND PROUD AND SELF-CONFIDENT IN HER GROWING WOMANHOOD — FEELING STRANGELY PRIVILEGED TO BE WITH HER, TO BE SHARING HER SPACE, SHARING THE SAME PLANET
I'D WATCH HER WITH HER NEW FRIENDS, FEELING FOR THE FIRST TIME LIKE AN OUTSIDER.
LOVING HER, LONGING FOR HER.
AND TOO AFRAID TO TELL HER.
KNOWING WHAT HER ANSWER WOULD BE.
HOPE ENDED TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE GRADUATION BOP...
I'M SORRY, BENNY— I ALREADY SAID I'D GO WITH DOODY.
DOODY MANSON? JEEZ, AMI! HE'S HEAVY IN WITH THE DEMOCRATS! HELL, THE GUY'S ALREADY SPENT HALF HIS LIFE IN JIVE REHAB!
THEN IT ALL CAME POURING OUT, DUMB WORD STUMBLING AFTER DUMB WORD — AND ALL THE TIME I COULD SEE THE ANSWER WRITTEN ON HER FACE.
IF I SAID NOTHING, AT LEAST THERE WAS ALWAYS HOPE...
HE'S NO GOOD FOR YOU — HE'S TROUBLE! I'M THE ONE. I LOVE YOU.
OH, BENNY... I LOVE YOU TOO, BUT... NOT THAT WAY...
I KNOW. LIKE A BROTHER, HUH?
WELL, AMI, I GOTTA GO.
BENNY...
BENNY!
I DO LOVE YOU, HONEST I DO.
PLEASE DON'T CRY...
OH, BENNY.

I WENT TO THE BOP. ALONE.
I HAD TO ADMIT, AMI AND DOODY LOOKED GOOD TOGETHER.
THEY ASKED ME TO SING A COUPLE OF MY COMEDY SONGS. I DID "THE GEEK WHO ATE MY KNEEPAD" AND "THE LIMPTY MAN."
EVERYBODY LAUGHED.
EXCEPT THE COMEDIAN.
AMI WENT AWAY TO WEST SECTOR U — POLITICS. DOODY WENT TOO. SHE PROMISED SHE'D WRITE REGULARLY AND SHE DID. SHE TOLD ME SHE AND DOODY WERE SHARING A STUDEHAB.
THERE'S HARDLY ROOM FOR ONE IN A STUDEHAB. I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ANY MORE.


MY MOM DIED. TERMINAL BOREDOM, THEY SAID. AMI COULDN'T MAKE IT TO RESYK— SOME STUDE PROTEST.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HER ON THE BELT?
THEY SAY IT HELPS SOMETIMES—
WHAT..?
—TO KNOW OUR DEAR ONES ARE BEING PUT TO GOOD USE. IN DEATH, AS THEY NEVER COULD IN LIFE...
OH... SURE...
LIFE SHE EES SAD, EH, BENNY?
WHAT YOU GONNA DO NOW?
I'VE BEEN HAVING SOME SUCCESS WITH MY MUSIC.
AH, YES, SI! WE HEAR! YOU GONNA BE THE BEEG STAR, EH? MRS BEENY'S LEETLE BOY GONNA MAKE EET BEEG.
YOUR MOMMA, SHE BE PROUD OF YOU.
ME, I NO' HAPPY HERE. EES NO WHAT I THEENK.
"HEY, YOU, PICK OP THAT PAPER— HEY, YOU, STOP STANDING THERE— HEY, YOU, OP AGAINST THE WALL!"
NO DO ANYTHING —NO WORK— TAKE ONE STEP OUT OF LINE AN' BANG! YOU DEAD!
I WEESH WE NEVER COME...EES NO' THE GREAT DREAM PLACE — EES NO AMERICA NO MORE.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HER, BENNY. SHE NO COME HOME NO MORE— SHE EEN BEEG WITH THESE DEMOCRATS. AN' THAT DOOD GUY—!
NO GOOD GONNA COME OF EET, BOT WHAT CAN YOU DO? AMERICA, SHE GONNA DO WHAT SHE LIKE, WHAT-EVER YOU SAY...
YES...

I WROTE TO HER THAT NIGHT. I STILL HAVE THE LETTER. SHE'D KEPT IT.

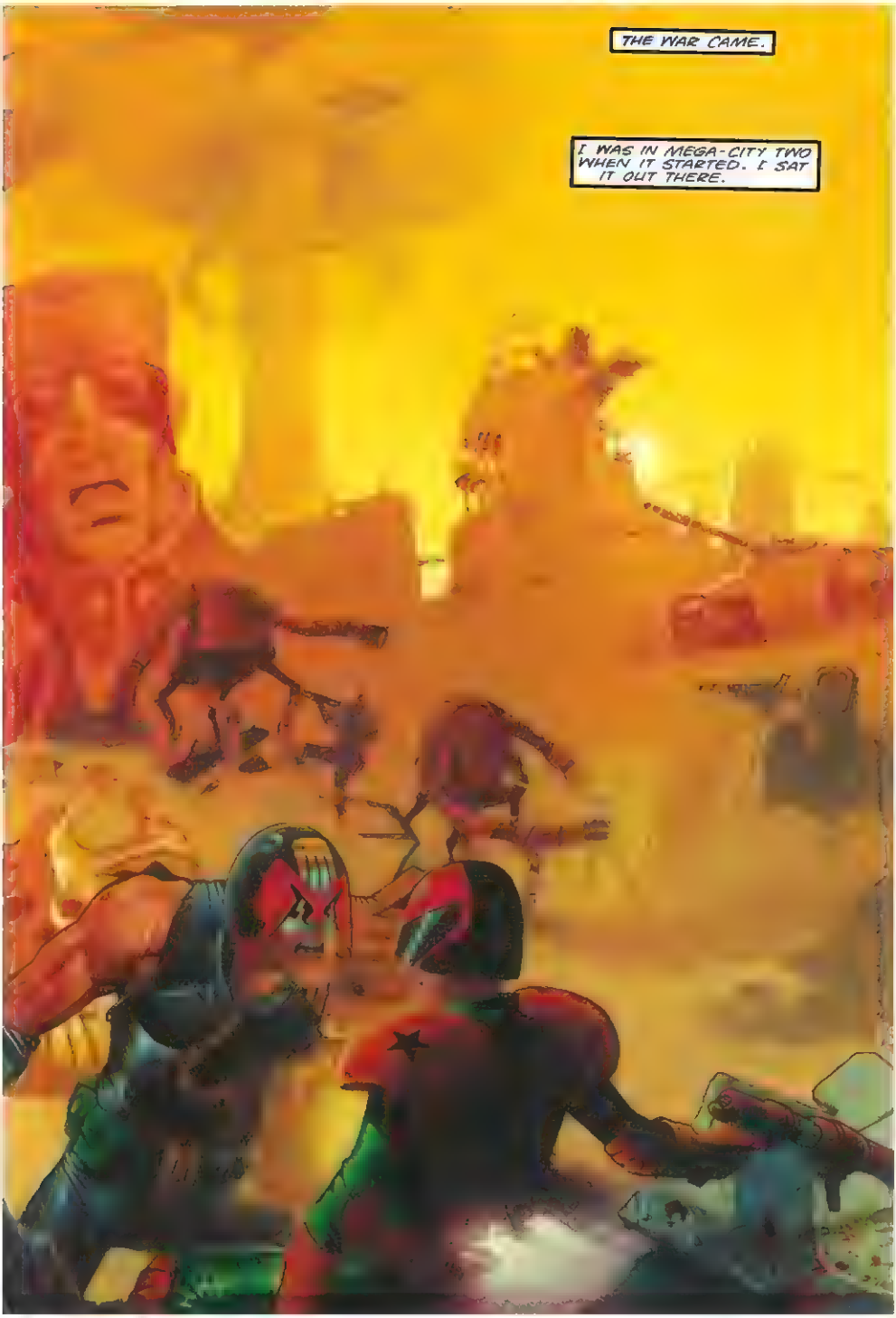
Dear Ami,

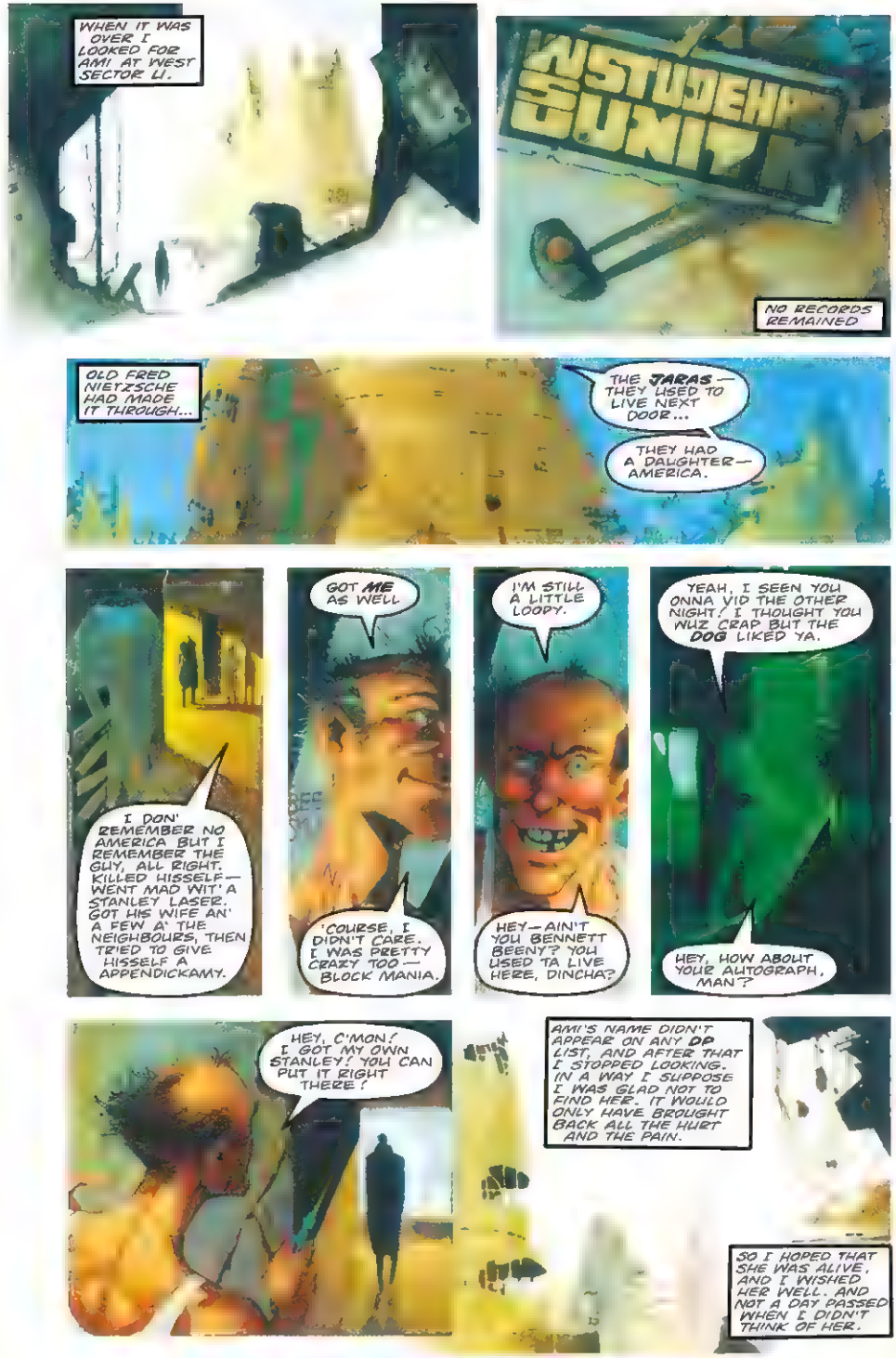
Now Marie's gone there's [illegible] hang around and find Nietzsche. So I guess this is goodbye. I don't think I'll write any more. I'm sure you understand.

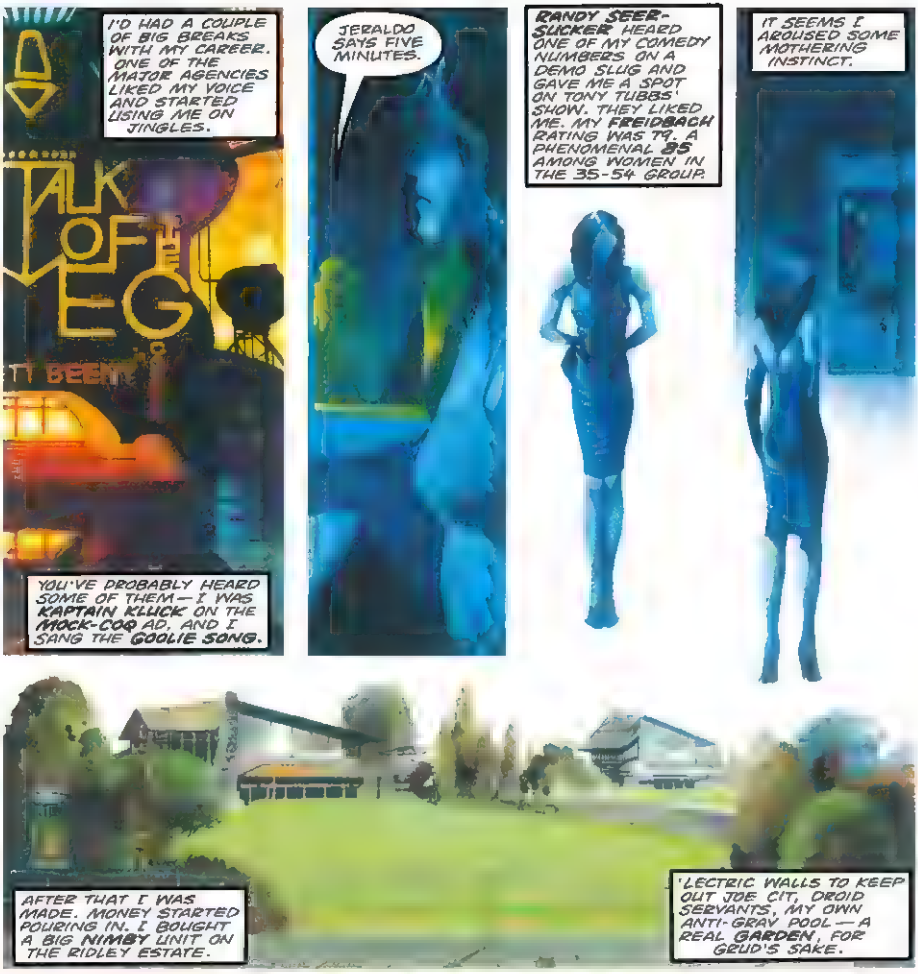
I just want you to know that I'll always love you. If you ever need me, I'm there.

Take care of yourself.

Jenny


THE WAR CAME.
I WAS IN MEGA-CITY TWO WHEN IT STARTED. I SAT IT OUT THERE.


WHEN IT WAS OVER I LOOKED FOR AMI AT WEST SECTOR U.
NO RECORDS REMAINED
OLD FRED NIETZSCHE HAD MADE IT THROUGH...
THE JARAS — THEY USED TO LIVE NEXT DOOR...
THEY HAD A DAUGHTER — AMERICA.
I DON' REMEMBER NO AMERICA BUT I REMEMBER THE GUY, ALL RIGHT. KILLED HISSELF — WENT MAD WIT' A STANLEY LASER. GOT HIS WIFE AN' A FEW A' THE NEIGHBOURS, THEN TRIED TO GIVE HISSELF A APPENDICKAMY.
GOT ME AS WELL
'COURSE, I DIDN'T CARE. I WAS PRETTY CRAZY TOO — BLOCK MANIA.
I'M STILL A LITTLE LOOPY.
HEY — AIN'T YOU BENNETT BEENY? YOU USED TA LIVE HERE, DINCHA?
YEAH, I SEEN YOU ONNA VID THE OTHER NIGHT. I THOUGHT YOU WUZ CRAP BUT THE DOG LIKED YA.
HEY, HOW ABOUT YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MAN?
HEY, C'MON. I GOT MY OWN STANLEY. YOU CAN PUT IT RIGHT THERE!
AMI'S NAME DIDN'T APPEAR ON ANY DP LIST, AND AFTER THAT I STOPPED LOOKING. IN A WAY I SUPPOSE I WAS GLAD NOT TO FIND HER. IT WOULD ONLY HAVE BROUGHT BACK ALL THE HURT AND THE PAIN.
SO I HOPED THAT SHE WAS ALIVE, AND I WISHED HER WELL. AND NOT A DAY PASSED WHEN I DIDN'T THINK OF HER.


I'D HAD A COUPLE OF BIG BREAKS WITH MY CAREER. ONE OF THE MAJOR AGENCIES LIKED MY VOICE AND STARTED USING ME ON JINGLES.
TALK OF THE EG
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD SOME OF THEM—I WAS KAPTAIN KLUCK ON THE MOCK-COQ AD, AND I SANG THE GOOLIE SONG.
JERALDO SAYS FIVE MINUTES.
RANDY SEER-SUCKER HEARD ONE OF MY COMEDY NUMBERS ON A DEMO SLUG AND GAVE ME A SPOT ON TONY TUBBS' SHOW. THEY LIKED ME. MY FREIDBACK RATING WAS 79, A PHENOMENAL 85 AMONG WOMEN IN THE 35-54 GROUP.
IT SEEMS I AROUSED SOME MOTHERING INSTINCT.
AFTER THAT I WAS MADE. MONEY STARTED POURING IN. I BOUGHT A BIG NIMBY UNIT ON THE RIDLEY ESTATE.
'LECTRIC WALLS TO KEEP OUT JOE CIT, DROID SEEVANTS, MY OWN ANTI-GRAV POOL—A REAL GARDEN, FOR GRUD'S SAKE.

I WONDERED WHAT AMERICA WOULD SAY IF SHE COULD SEE ME NOW. MRS BEENY'S BOY—LIVING LIKE A SULTAN.
I'D BEEN RIGHT. YOU COULD PLAY IT BY THEIR RULES AND HAVE A GOOD LIFE.

WHEN THE BIG DEMOCRATIC MARCH HAPPENED I LOOKED FOR HER. IT WAS HOPELESS, OF COURSE — ONE FACE AMONG SIXTEEN MILLION.
I PRAYED THAT SHE WASN'T ON IT.
I STILL LIVED ALONE. THERE'D BEEN A FEW BRIEF RELATIONSHIPS, BUT NONE THAT CAME TO ANYTHING. I GUESS IN MY MIND NO ONE COULD EVER REPLACE AMERICA.
NOW AND THEN I SOUGHT REFUGE WITH THE LADIES OF THE SLAB...
FURTIVE, UGLY, HUMILIATING LITTLE ENCOUNTERS IN HOTEL ROOMS AND SLEEPEEZEES.
THAT'S WHERE I FOUND HER

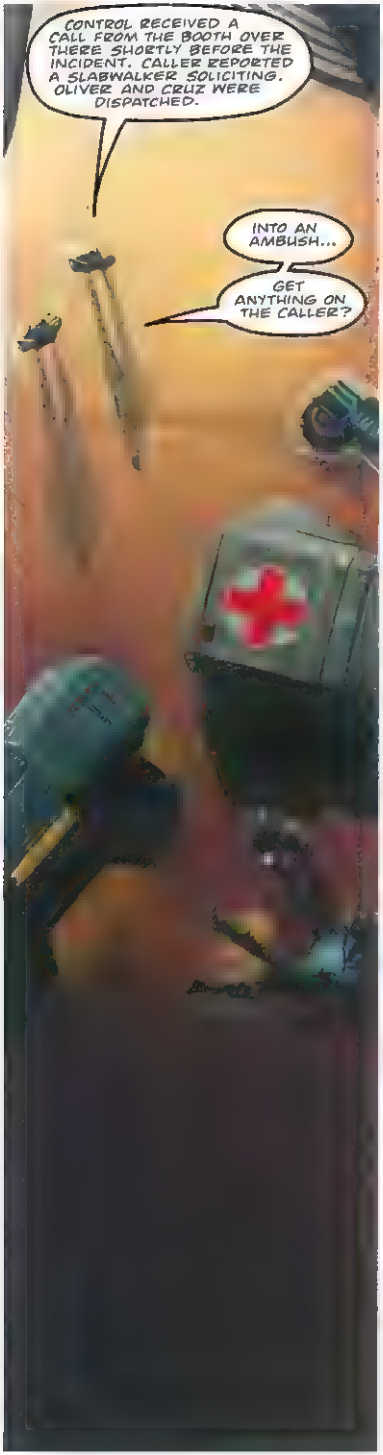
AMI!
WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU--?
DON'T ASK, BENNY. PLEASE— JUST GO.
GRUD! THAT YOU'VE SUNK TO THIS? COULDN'T YOU HAVE COME TO ME, AMI?
BENNY WILL YOU GET OUT OF HERE--?
AMI—?
WHAT THE HELL IS ?
SOMETHING WRONG HERE...
JUDGES ?
SET UP!
AMI—
NO!

AAAAA
AAAA
CON...TROL...
WE GOTTA—
HUUNNNN—
GOTTA .
BASTARD!

JESUS, AMI! WH-WHAT'VE YOU DONE—?
POD'S HERE!
LET'S MOVE!
YOU KNOW THIS GEEK?
HE'S OKAY, KURD—
KURD— NO!
HE'S SEEN YOU! YOU KNOW THE RULES!
HEY... L-LISTEN...

DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!
SHUT UP!
GET IN!

GO!


CONTROL RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE BOOTH OVER THERE SHORTLY BEFORE THE INCIDENT. CALLER REPORTED A SLABWALKER SOLICITING. OLIVER AND CRUZ WERE DISPATCHED.
INTO AN AMBUSH...
GET ANYTHING ON THE CALLER?

HE WAS USING A SCRAMBLER. WE CAN GET AN APPROXIMATION -- MALE, PROBABLY FAIRLY YOUNG -- BUT NOTHING WE CAN RUN AGAINST VPs ON FILE.
WE ESTIMATE FOUR GUNS -- THREE FAST ACTION LAS-BLASTERS, PROBABLY 9-70s -- ONE SPITGUN, STANDARD LOAD.
THE BULLETS MATCH THE ONES IN THE BRUZELAND STREET KILLINGS.
AND THIS WAS PINNED TO OLIVER'S BODY?
WITH HIS BOOTKNIFE.

TOTAL WAR

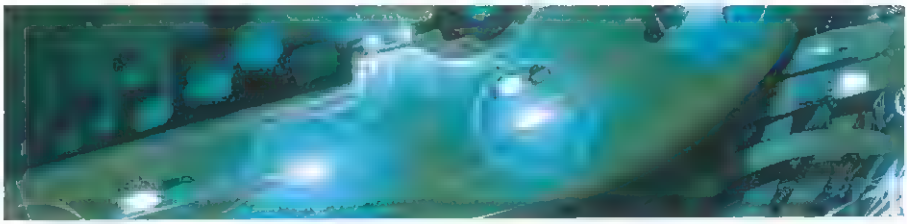
THAT REALLY BENNETT BEENY?
WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE? THE SLABWALKER?
COULD BE. CAN'T SEE HIM TIED IN WITH THIS TOTAL WAR BUNCH, THAT'S FOR SURE...
THAT'S HIS POD PARKED UP THE STREET.
YOU EVER HEAR HIM?
I KNOW THE NAME. JUST ANOTHER CREEP.
HE WAS ACTUALLY QUITE GOOD. FUNNY. NICE VOICE TOO.
WHERE DO YOU GET TIME FOR MUSICAL APPRECIATION, PENDER? CONTROL NOT WORKING YOU HARD ENOUGH?
HOW'S IT LOOK?
TOUCH AND GO.
IF HE DOES MAKE IT, HE WON'T BE SINGING AGAIN.
"THEY SHOT HIS THROAT OUT."
DO YOUR BEST. CHANCES ARE HE STUMBLED UPON THE AMBUSH, WITNESSED EVERYTHING. THAT'S WHY THEY SHOT HIM.
KEEP ME INFORMED, PENDER. I WANT THESE CREEPS.
I'LL GIVE 'EM TOTAL WAR!

THE CITY'S JUMPING. CRIME RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL
SAME OLD SONG.
NO TIME TO STOP, NO TIME TO THINK—
BREAK 'EM UP!
RUN 'EM IN!
TAKE 'EM OUT!
BLOW 'EM DOWN!
BAG 'EM UP!
CART 'EM OFF!
JUSTICE.
SET IT TO THE TUNE OF "RAWHIDE."
THAT'S THE SONG OF THE JUDGES.
TUNE IN— OR DROP OUT.

JUST TELL US WHAT YOU SAW, CITIZEN.
TAP TAP
CAN'T REMEMBER
THEY GOT YOU IN THE THROAT, NOT THE BRAIN. THINK! YOU MUST REMEMBER!
PLEASE. HE'S STILL VERY WEAK.
AND FOUR JUDGES ARE VERY DEAD.
HE NEEDS REST. PERHAPS IN A FEW DAYS.
I'LL DECIDE WHEN HE NEEDS REST!
WHAT AM I ARGUING WITH A ROBOT FOR? GET IT OUTTA HERE, PENDER!
I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, BEENY... YOU DON'T WANT TO BE BOTHERED WITH ALL THESE QUESTIONS...
BUT THERE'S A GANG OF PSYCHOPATHS OUT THERE WHO SEEM TO THINK IT'S THEIR GRUD-GIVEN RIGHT TO MURDER A JUDGE OR TWO—

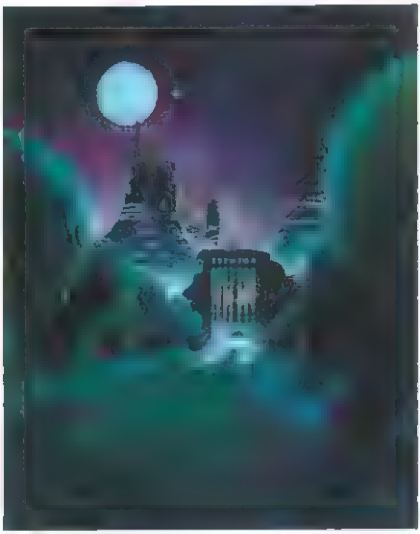
AND IF YOU DON'T START GIVING ME SOME ANSWERS I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE IT THAT YOU'RE DELIBERATELY OBSTRUCTING MY INVESTIGATIONS!
YOU WANT TO DO YOUR RECOVERING IN THE CUBES? IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT, BEENY?
THAT'S BETTER.
LET'S TAKE IT FROM THE BEGINNING. WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON NEVUS STREET?
TAP TAP
I LIED FOR YOU, AMI.
HARD TO IMAGINE — ME, SCARED LITTLE BENNY BEENY, LYING TO THE JUDGES...
BUT WHY KID MYSELF? IT WAS NO GREAT ACT OF COURAGE.
IF I COULD HAVE TALKED I WOULDN'T HAVE HELD OUT FOR A MINUTE. HE'D HAVE SQUEEZED IT OUT OF ME, HAD ME CRAWLING, THANKING HIM FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF INFORMING ON YOU.
OH, YES. I'M NO HERO. WE KNOW THAT ONLY TOO WELL.

BUT I LEFT MY THROAT ON NEVUS STREET AND HE COULDN'T GET TO ME. SO I LIED. IT WAS DARK, IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST...
...MY MEMORY SO HAZY, MY HAND DRAGGING SLOWLY OVER THE KEYBOARD, STRETCHING EACH WORD, EACH LETTER INTO AN ETERNITY...
AND JUDGE DREDD IS NOT A PATIENT MAN.
12:07
HE STOPPED ON NEVUS STREET TO LOOK FOR A PUBLIC FACILITY. THE FIRST THING HE NOTICED WAS WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTED. THERE WERE THREE, POSSIBLY FOUR TERRORISTS, HE CAN'T BE SURE.
THE MAN WHO SHOT HIM WAS MUSCULAR, AGE 20-30 APPROXIMATE, UNSHAVEN, TANK TOP. ONE OF THEM WAS A WOMAN — TALL, DARK HAIR, THAT'S ALL HE REMEMBERS. HE WOULDN'T RECOGNISE ANY OF THEM AGAIN.
NOT MUCH HELP, ARE YOU, CITIZEN?
YEAH, I KNOW. YOU'RE SORRY. SO AM I.
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ELSE — THE SLIGHTEST DETAIL — I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT.
SOA
HE'S RESTING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I THINK ONLY A FOOL STOPS ON NEVUS LOOKING FOR A PF.
HIS SLAX WERE HEAVILY SOILED.
SO WOULD YOURS BE IF YOU'D JUST HAD YOUR THROAT SHOT OUT.
PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT HE WAS LOOKING FOR A SLABWALKER. WE CAN PULL HIM FOR CONSORTING.
NO, LET IT GO. CREEP'S ALREADY LOST A CAREER ANYWAY.
YOU'RE ALL HEART.



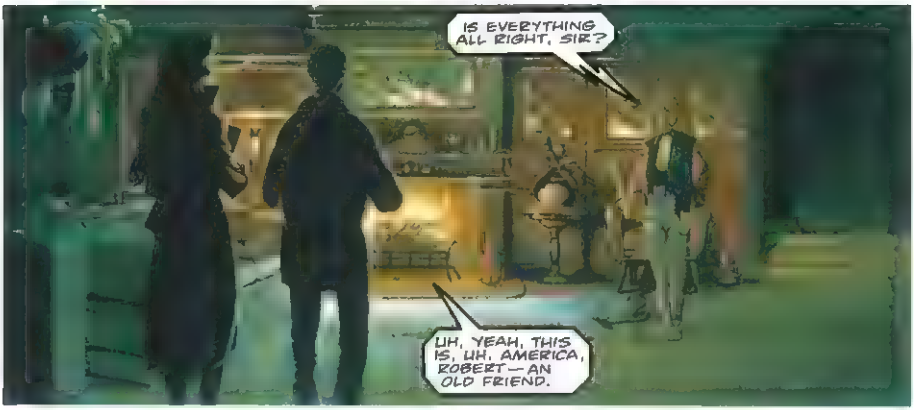
STOP

DELIVERY FOR BEENY.
FIRST RIGHT— THE BIG PLACE ON THE HILL.



BING BONG!
I'LL GET IT.
HELLO, BENNY.

CAN I COME IN?
UH...UH... SURE! YEAH!
DON'T WORRY. I WASN'T FOLLOWED.
THEY COULD BE WATCHING THE HOUSE—
NOBODY WAS WATCHING. TAKE MY WORD. I'M GOOD AT THESE THINGS.
OH, BENNY... I'M SO SORRY...
I COULD HAVE KILLED KURD FOR WHAT HE DID!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY.
THEY'RE GOING TO FIX ME UP WITH AN IMPLANT— PROGRAMMED WITH MY OWN VOICE.
IT'LL NEVER BE QUITE THE SAME, BUT...


IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, SIR?
UH, YEAH, THIS IS, UH, AMERICA, ROBERT—AN OLD FRIEND.

YES, I RECOGNISE THE YOUNG LADY NOW, SIR.
YOU RECOGNISE HER?

YOU KEEP HER HOLOGRAM, SIR. BY YOUR BEDSIDE.

CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING, MIZ? A DRINK?
THAT WOULD BE NICE.
THOUGH IF YOU'LL PARDON ME SAYING SO, A GOOD SQUARE MEAL MIGHT BE MORE IN ORDER.

YOU'VE DONE WELL FOR YOURSELF, BENNY.
YES, EVEN IF I NEVER SING AGAIN MY ACCOUNTANT SAYS I CAN LIVE FAIRLY COMFORTABLY OFF ROYALTIES FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
I GUESS YOU'VE PROVED YOUR POINT. I'M GLAD FOR YOU.

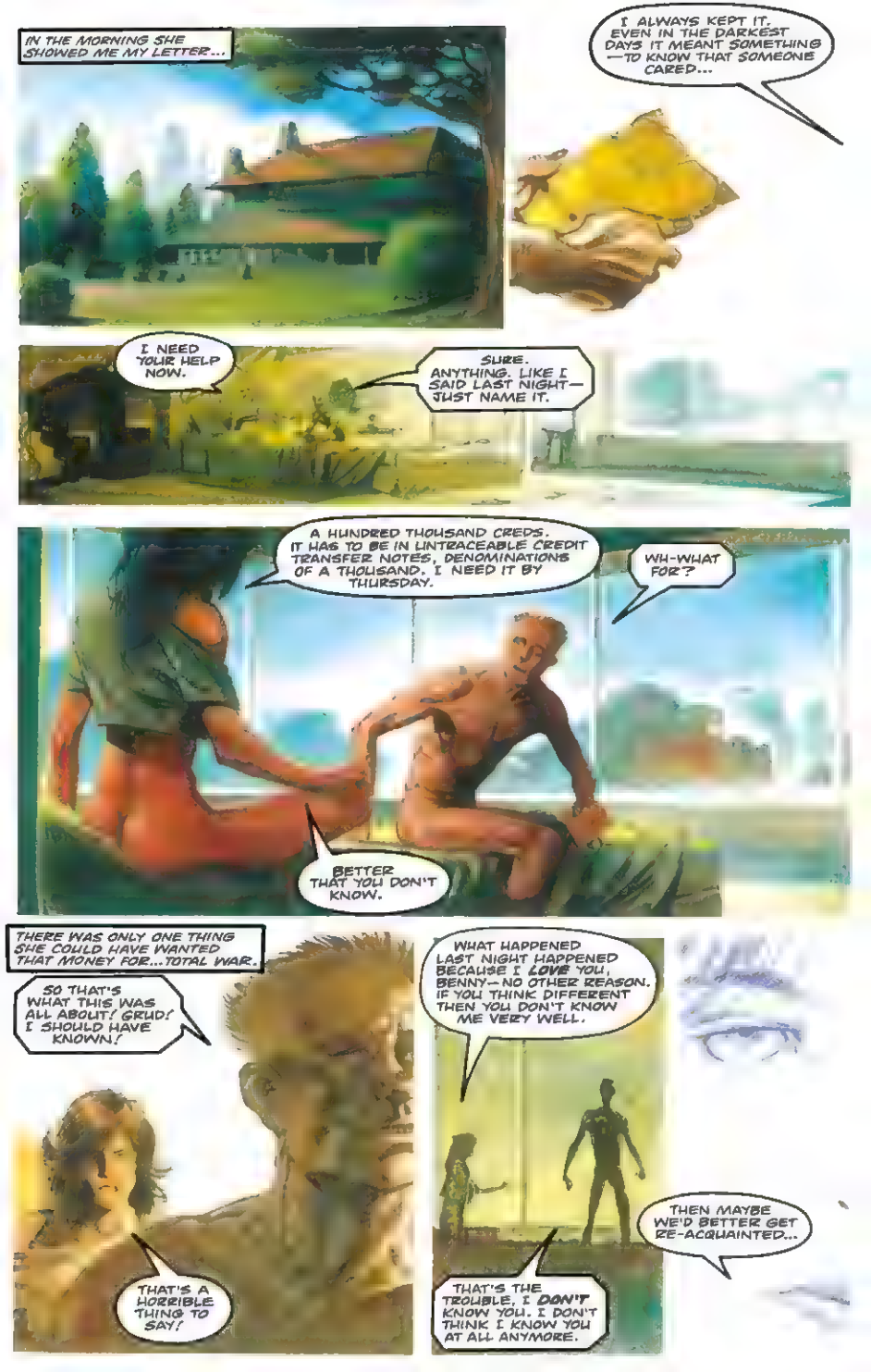
I REFRAINED FROM TELLING HER THAT SHE COULD HAVE BEEN PART OF EVERYTHING — COULD STILL BE IF SHE'D WANTED TO. I KNEW IT WAS A WASTE OF TIME.

THANKS — FOR NOT INFORMING ON US. YOU HAD EVERY RIGHT TO, CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED.
HOW DO YOU KNOW I DIDN'T?
MY PICTURE WOULD HAVE BEEN ON EVERY NEWSCAST. I WOULDN'T BE HERE NOW — I'D BE DEAD OR IN A CUBE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ROBERT. HE WON'T REPEAT ANYTHING HE HEARS IN THIS HOUSE.

WHAT I DID WAS FOR YOU, AMI, NOT FOR THEM. NOT FOR TOTAL WAR, OR WHATEVER YOU CALL YOURSELVES.
WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS WRONG. KILLING JUDGES — HOW MANY NOW, SIX? — IT'S MURDER, AMI.
NO MATTER HOW YOU DRESS IT UP, IT'S MURDER.
I KNOW...
THEN WHY?
THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, BENNY.
PLEASE, I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT NOW... MAYBE LATER.
I'M JUST SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU. LET'S NOT SPOIL THINGS...

SHE ATE LIKE SHE HADN'T SEEN REAL FOOD FOR A WEEK. SHE HADN'T BEEN LOOKING AFTER HERSELF.
SHE'D BEEN LIVING ROUGH, MOVING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE — SYMPATHISERS — NEVER STAYING TOO LONG IN ONE PLACE.
OHHHHHH... STUFFED!
MEMBER THAT TIME WE GOT HOLD OF MOM'S TAFFEE MIX'?
DO I? YOU HAD GUNK ALL UP YOUR NOSE AND IN YOUR HAIR. YOUR TUMMY WAS SO TIGHT YOU COULD HARDLY STAND!
YOU'RE ONE TO TALK! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS UP BEING SICK ALL NIGHT!
WE TALKED LONG INTO THE NIGHT. FOR A FEW HOURS IT WAS JUST LIKE OLD TIMES. AS IF THE REAL WORLD HAD NEVER INTRUDED ON OUR LIVES.
BUT IN THE END THERE WAS NO KEEPING IT OUT...
THE JUDGES WILL GET YOU. YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU? THEY ALWAYS DO.
YES.
WHY DON'T YOU STOP?
I CAN'T
OF COURSE YOU CAN. YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IDENTIFIED. JUST QUIT—WALK AWAY. I'LL HELP YOU.
I'VE GOT EVERYTHING WE COULD EVER NEED HERE. LIVE WITH ME. WE COULD BE HAPPY TOGETHER, I KNOW IT.
DAMN! I PROMISED MYSELF I WASN'T GOING TO SAY THAT...
OH, HELL. AMI, YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT YOU.

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TEMPTING IT IS...
I'M TIRED... TIRED OF RUNNING, TIRED OF HIDING. BUT THERE'S NO WAY BACK NOW.
THEY HURT ME, BENNY. I CAN'T STOP HATING THEM.
WE'LL TALK MORE ABOUT IT IN THE MORNING. I'LL HAVE ROBERT MAKE YOU UP A BED.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.
YOU CAN'T LEAVE NOW. IT'S AFTER THREE.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, DUMMY.
YOU M-MEAN—?
COME ON.
I...I CAN'T
NOT LIKE THIS.
DON'T BE SILLY.
GEUD, YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED, HAVE YOU?
YOU'RE A REALLY NICE GUY, BENNY, BUT YOU'RE SUCH A JERK.

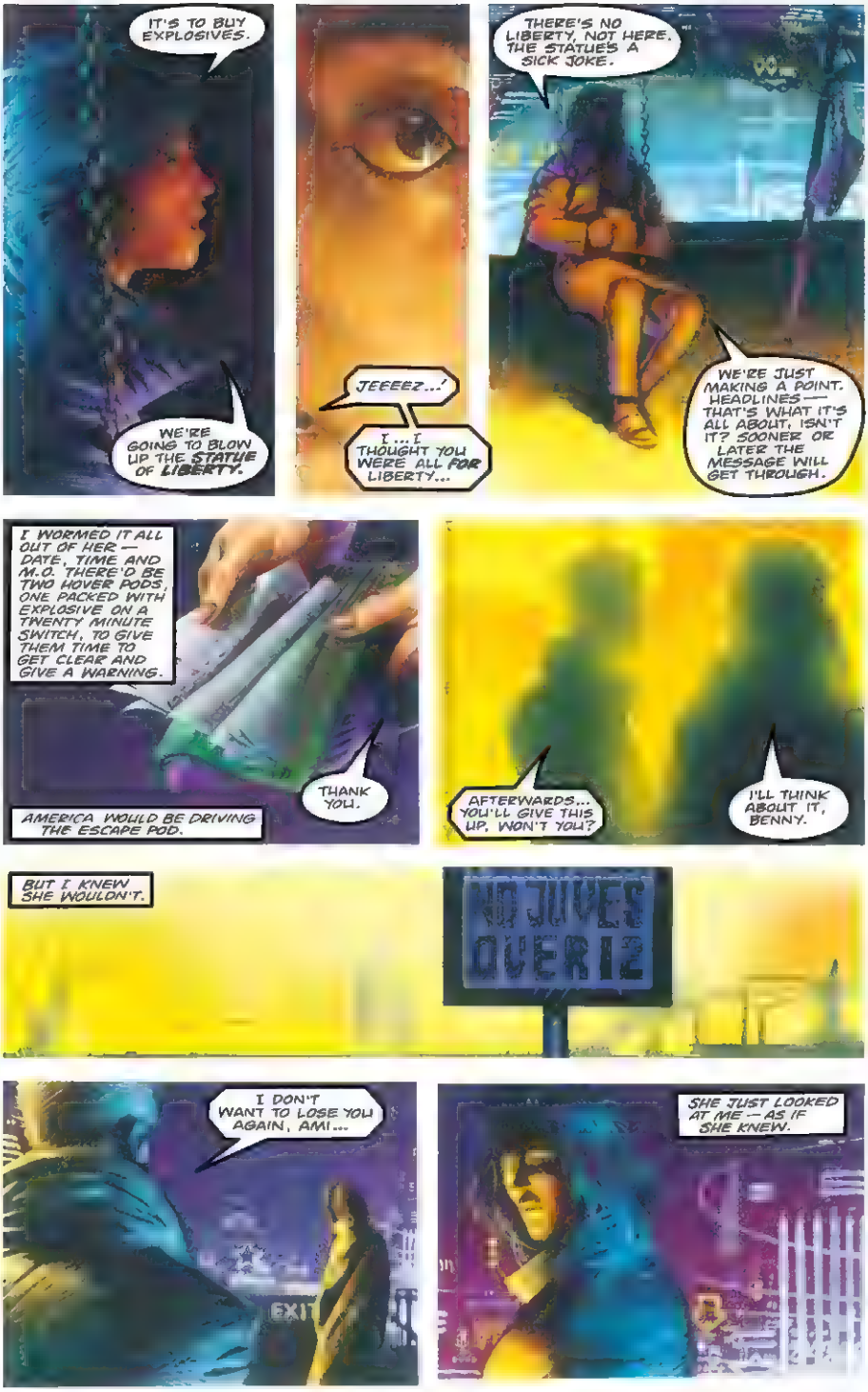

IN THE MORNING SHE SHOWED ME MY LETTER...
I ALWAYS KEPT IT. EVEN IN THE DARKEST DAYS IT MEANT SOMETHING —TO KNOW THAT SOMEONE CARED...
I NEED YOUR HELP NOW.
SURE. ANYTHING. LIKE I SAID LAST NIGHT— JUST NAME IT.
A HUNDRED THOUSAND CREDS. IT HAS TO BE IN UNTRACEABLE CREDIT TRANSFER NOTES, DENOMINATIONS OF A THOUSAND. I NEED IT BY THURSDAY.
WH-WHAT FOR?
BETTER THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.
THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING SHE COULD HAVE WANTED THAT MONEY FOR...TOTAL WAR.
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT! GRUD! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
THAT'S A HORRIBLE THING TO SAY!
WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT HAPPENED BECAUSE I LOVE YOU, BENNY— NO OTHER REASON. IF YOU THINK DIFFERENT THEN YOU DON'T KNOW ME VERY WELL.
THEN MAYBE WE'D BETTER GET RE-ACQUAINTED...
THAT'S THE TROUBLE, I DON'T KNOW YOU. I DON'T THINK I KNOW YOU AT ALL ANYMORE.

SHE TOLD ME SHE'D BEEN ON THE BIG DEMOCRATIC MARCH. HER AND DOOD. SHE WAS FOUR MONTHS PREGNANT.
THEY WERE SIXTEEN MILLION STRONG, MARCHING ON THE GRAND MALL—A HUGE TIDAL WAVE OF PEACEFUL PROTEST. THEY FELT NOTHING COULD STOP THEM.
THEN THE STONE THROWING STARTED... JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AGITATORS, PLANTED IN THE MARCH.
COME ON, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
I KNOW. IT'S THE WAY THEY WORK.
IT GAVE THE JUDGES ALL THE EXCUSE THEY NEEDED--
NO VIOLENCE! NO VIOLENCE!
DOOD!
LEAVE HIM ALONE--!

DOOD DIED ON THE WAY TO HOSPITAL— BRAIN HAEMORRHAGE. I NEARLY LOST THE BABY.
I WAS SENT TO A REHAB UNIT FOR "RE-EDUCATION," AS THEY CALLED IT.
HE WAS A LITTLE BOY, YOU KNOW...WE WERE GOING TO CALL HIM TONY, AFTER MY DAD.
GENETIC ABNORMALITY, I'M AFRAID. ROUTINE AMNIOCENTESIS PICKED IT UP.
I'D BEEN IN REHAB TWO MONTHS WHEN THEY CAME FOR HIM...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. IT HAPPENS.
JUST COME WITH US.
WHAT—? N-NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
NOT MY BABY—!
I...DIDN'T KNOW. I'M SORRY...
THEY DID IT DELIBERATELY!
SURELY NOT—
OH YES! YOU DON'T KNOW THEM!
AND EVEN IF THEY DIDN'T WHAT *RIGHT* HAVE THEY GOT TO MURDER MY BABY? WHAT RIGHT HAVE THEY GOT TO DECIDE WHO LIVES AND WHO DIES?

I ENDED UP IN THE PSYCHO CUBES, MUCH OF THE TIME UNDER RESTRAINT. CLASSIFIED HOSTILE.
BUT IT GAVE ME TIME TO THINK. GRADUALLY I BEGAN TO CALM DOWN, PLAY ALONG WITH THEM. I KNEW I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE—
—TO FIGHT THEM, BENNY!
IT WASN'T HARD TO FIND OTHERS WHO FELT THE SAME WAY. THE DEMOCRATIC MARCH HAD CHANGED A LOT OF PEOPLE.
MAYBE THERE IS ANOTHER WAY. MAYBE ONE DAY PEACEFUL PROTEST WILL WIN. BUT I JUST DON'T CARE ANYMORE.
OH, AMERICA. WERE YOU USING ME EVEN THEN? YOU KNEW JUST THE RIGHT WORDS TO TWIST ME WITH—NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN...
NO! I WON'T BELIEVE IT OF HER!
I PROMISE YOU NO ONE WILL BE HURT BY THIS MONEY. IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT, I'LL UNDERSTAND.
I WON'T GET YOU INVOLVED. IF YOU SAY NO I'LL WALK OUT OF HERE AND YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN.
N-No...
THURSDAY, YOU SAID...?

WE ARRANGED TO MEET AT A NORTH SECTOR HOV-IN. IT WAS SAFER, SHE SAID, IF SHE DIDN'T COME TO THE HOUSE AGAIN.
WE SAT FOR A WHILE, GENTLY SWINGING, WATCHING THE ACTORS MOUTH THEIR SOUNDLESS WORDS. SHE HELD MY HAND. I FELT A STRANGE SENSE OF CONTENTMENT.
IF ONLY IT COULD HAVE STAYED LIKE THAT — IF WE COULD HAVE WALKED AWAY, TOGETHER, TURNED OUR BACKS ON THE TRAGEDY THAT HAD BEEN SO CAREFULLY LAID OUT BEFORE US.
BUT LIFE DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.
DID YOU BRING THE MONEY?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THIS?
I TOLD YOU, BETTER YOU DON'T KNOW.
I'VE GOT TO KNOW, AMI. I... HAVE TO BE SURE NO ONE'S GOING TO BE HURT. I CAN'T GIVE IT TO YOU UNLESS YOU TELL ME.


IT'S TO BUY EXPLOSIVES.
WE'RE GOING TO BLOW UP THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.
JEEEEZ...'
I...I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL FOR LIBERTY...
THERE'S NO LIBERTY, NOT HERE. THE STATUE'S A SICK JOKE.
WE'RE JUST MAKING A POINT. HEADLINES — THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT, ISN'T IT? SOONER OR LATER THE MESSAGE WILL GET THROUGH.
I WORMED IT ALL OUT OF HER — DATE, TIME AND M.O. THERE'D BE TWO HOVER PODS, ONE PACKED WITH EXPLOSIVE ON A TWENTY MINUTE SWITCH, TO GIVE THEM TIME TO GET CLEAR AND GIVE A WARNING.
THANK YOU.
AMERICA WOULD BE DRIVING THE ESCAPE POD.
AFTERWARDS... YOU'LL GIVE THIS UP, WON'T YOU?
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT, BENNY.
BUT I KNEW SHE WOULDN'T.
NO JUVES OVER 12
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU AGAIN, AMI...
EXIT
SHE JUST LOOKED AT ME — AS IF SHE KNEW.

OBSERVATION UNITS REPORT SUSPICIOUS POD HOVERING APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF KAY SOUTH. POD REGISTERED TO ONE BEENY, BENNETT.
YOU WANT A PICK UP?
NEGATIVE. LET HIM WATCH.
HE EARNED IT.

SIGHTING! ONE KAY WEST OVER DEETER SKED AND CLOSING!
BOJ. WE HAVE THEM ON VISUAL.
DISRUPTERS.
CHECK!
WE'RE LOSING POWER--!
KUBD'S GOING DOWN TOO! SOMETHING'S UP!
SWEET MOTHER--!

IT'S A SET UP!
THAT DAMNED FRIEND OF YOURS!
BENNY? NO! BENNY WOULDN'T DO THAT!
NO CONTEST! NO CONTEST!
FIRE AT WILL.

CEASE FIRING!
AMI!

YOU'RE ON.
YOU'LL KNOCK 'EM DEAD, KID!
SORRY... ME AN' MY BIG MOUTH.
BE GOOD.
YES, I REMEMBER AMERICA.

STRUGGLING TO RISE—
— TAKING THOSE LAST, FALTERING STEPS ACROSS THE CONCOURSE.
I SAID CEASE FIRE!
THAT JUDGE ON REPORT!

AMI!
LEAVE HIM!
IT'S OUR INFORMER.
OH, JESUS, AMI, DON'T DIE! PLEASE, DON'T DIE!
MEDIC! GET A MEDIC!
I'M SO SORRY! I HAD TO TELL THEM! I-IF I'D JUST GIVEN YOU THE MONEY I'D HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MURDER—TERRORISM! I—I COULDN'T DO IT, AMI—!
START ROUNDING UP SYMPATHISERS—THE WHOLE RING.
WHAT ABOUT BEENY? HE'S GUILTY OF CONCEALING EVIDENCE.
HE'S BEEN VERY CO-OPERATIVE. WE'LL LET THIS ONE GO.
IT-IT WAS FOR THE BEST, AMI! HE SAID YOU WOULDN'T BE HURT—JUST THE OTHERS!
MEDIC!

YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T HURT HER!
SPARE YOUR TEARS FOR SOMEONE WHO DESERVES THEM, BEENY. SHE WAS A JUDGE KILLER.
BUT YOU FOLLOWED HER FROM THE HOV-IN! YOU KNEW THEM ALL! YOU COULD HAVE PICKED THEM UP ANY TIME! WHY THIS?
A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION— TO ENCOURAGE THE OTHERS.
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN SHOW BUSINESS.
DAMN YOU!
DAMN YOU!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THOSE OF YOU WITH MEMORIES STRETCHING BACK OVER A YEAR—
OKAY, I REALISE IT AIN'T MANY, BUT THERE MUST BE A FEW IN TONIGHT.'
SOME OF YOU DIMWITS MAY VAGUELY REMEMBER THE TRAGIC SHOOTING THAT STRUCK DOWN ONE OF THIS CITY'S WITTIEST, WACKIEST TALENTS.
THAT NIGHT THEY SAID HE WOULD NEVER SING AGAIN. WE AT JERALDO'S TALK OF THE MEG ARE PROUD THAT HE IS HERE TONIGHT TO PROVE THEM WRONG—
—MAYBE A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU REMEMBER, BUT STILL EVERY INCH A STAR.
SO WON'T YOU PLEASE PUT YOUR MITTS TOGETHER TO WELCOME BACK—
BENNNETTTT BEENY!

JEEEZ, IT'S TRUE! FULL-BODY TRANSPLANT!
BUT CAN SHE SING?
A LUMP OF THE GETAWAY VEHICLE WAS LODGED IN AMI'S SKULL. SHE WAS DECLARED BRAIN DEAD BEFORE SHE REACHED HOSPITAL.
WE NEED TO KNOW NEXT OF KIN.
NOBODY... THERE'S NOBODY. ONLY ME.
AND YOU ARE?
I WAS... HER FRIEND.
AND THE WORD STUCK IN MY THROAT.

THE OTHER INJURIES CAN BE REPAIRED, BUT... FRANKLY, THE KINDEST THING IS TO SWITCH OFF.
NO! DON'T DO THAT!
I HAD AMI MADE OVER TO MY CUSTODY. WHEN YOU'RE RICH ENOUGH, ALMOST ANYTHING CAN BE ARRANGED.
I KEPT HER ON LIFE SUPPORT FOR THREE MONTHS BEFORE I MADE THE DECISION.
MUSCLE CO-ORDINATION IS STILL TRICKY AND MY FINGERS ARE TOO CLUMSY TO MANAGE THE GITTER, BUT I'M SLOWLY GETTING USED TO IT.
WHY DID I DO IT? I'M STILL NOT SURE MYSELF.
I KNOW THAT PART OF ME COULD NEVER TAKE THAT FINAL STEP— NEVER BRING MYSELF TO SWITCH OFF AND END HER LIFE FOREVER.
I'M NOT HERE TO SING ANY FUNNY LITTLE NUMBERS.
YOU CAN LAUGH ABOUT THINGS FOR ONLY SO LONG.
AND I KNOW THAT I DID IT TO PUNISH MYSELF. BECAUSE NOT A DAY PASSES WHEN I DON'T SEE HER FACE IN THE MIRROR AND REMEMBER WHAT I DID.
SHE'S ALL AROUND ME. EVERY MOMENT— THE TOUCH, THE SMELL OF HER.
I HAD A FRIEND. HER NAME WAS AMERICA.
THIS IS HER SONG.

BUT I LIKE TO THINK THAT I DID IT FOR AMI, TOO. SO THAT AT LEAST PART OF HER — AT LEAST HER DREAM COULD CARRY ON
BECAUSE SHE WAS RIGHT. YOU CAN'T IGNORE WHAT'S GOING ON. YOU CAN'T BURY YOUR HEAD IN THE SAND AND FORGET WHAT THE JUDGES ARE DOING TO US.
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP FIGHTING.
NOW
YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP LOOKING FOR AMERICA.

FREEDOM — POWER TO THE PEOPLE — DEMOCRACY... THE GREAT AMERICAN DREAM.
DON'T KID YOURSELF.
WE TRIED IT BEFORE. BELIEVE ME, IT DOESN'T WORK. YOU CAN'T TRUST THE PEOPLE.
SO DREAM ON, CREEP. BUT JUST REMEMBER — THAT'S ALL IT IS, A DREAM...
AMERICA IS DEAD.
THIS IS THE REAL WORLD

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

SCRIPT
JOHN WAGNER

ART
JEFF ANDERSON

LETTERS
TOM FRAME

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN 2000 AD PROGS 150-153

JUDGE DREDD

J WAGNER
J ANDERSON
T FRAME

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

PART ONE

Brrringgg brrrinnngg!
Bleep!
HI THERE! YOU'RE THROUGH TO FREECALL REFERENDUM HOTLINE!
THE REFERENDUM IS NOW ONLY THREE WEEKS AWAY.
IF YOU ARE A LEGAL CITIZEN OVER SIXTEEN YEARS OF AGE AND CURRENTLY NEITHER A SERVING PRISONER NOR AN INMATE OF ANY PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTION, YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE.
YEAH, BUT, UH... WHAT'S IT ALL MEAN?
THE ISSUE AT STAKE IS THIS DO WE CONTINUE UNDER THE PRESENT SYSTEM WHEREBY THE CITIZENS' ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE BODY IS EMPOWERED TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS, BUT WHERE ULTIMATE LEGISLATIVE POWER RESIDES WITH THE JUDGES – ?
OR DO WE RETURN TO THE FORMER SYSTEM WHEREBY THE JUDGES – OR SOME ALTERNATIVE AGENCY – RETURN TO A STRICT LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATUTES ENACTED BY THE CITIZENS' ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE BODY, IN WHOM ULTIMATE LEGISLATIVE POWER RESIDES?
HUH?
JUDICIAL CONTROL – OR DEMOCRACY.
OH
NOW, IF YOU LOOK ON YOUR REMOTE YOU'LL SEE A BUTTON MARKED "INTERFACE-CH MAINFRAME" GOT IT?
UH YEAH
THAT BUTTON WILL PUT YOU IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH BARNEY, THE CITY HALL COMPUTER...

HI THERE! BARNEY HERE! HOW CAN I HELP YOU, CITIZEN?
KIIK!
UH, I DUNNO. THE GUY TOLD ME TO PRESS THIS BUTTON
WHAT GUY, CITIZEN?
THE GUY ON REFERENDUM HOTLINE.
PRESS THE SAME BUTTON AGAIN AND YOU'LL BE STRAIGHT BACK TO YOUR CALL. NICE SPEAKING TO YOU!
NOT YET, STUPID! THE REFERENDUM'S NOT FOR THREE WEEKS!
KIIK!
UH SORRY!
OKAY. WHEN THE REFERENDUM COMES YOU'LL BE ASKED FIRST TO INTERFACE WITH BARNEY AND THEN TO MAKE A SIMPLE CHOICE — PRESS BUTTON A ON YOUR REMOTE IF YOU WISH TO RETAIN JUDICIAL CONTROL — PRESS BUTTON B IF YOU WISH TO RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC CONTROL
IS THAT CLEAR?
I THINK SO...
KIIK!
KIIK!
NOTHIN'S HAPPENIN'
IT'S NOT MEANT TO! NOT FOR THREE WEEKS!
NOW, ARE THERE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?
YEAH—
WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT A REFERENDUM ANYWAY? I THOUGHT WE WAS GONNA HAVE A VOTE.
I GIVE UP!

KERRASH!
ROBOT'S GONE CRAZY!

DEMOLITION DROIDS! GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN A BULLET TO STOP THEM –!
DREDD'S RUNNING!
CLEAR THE WAY!
CHICKEN!
KEEP COMING!
FOLLOW ME!
CLOSE!
KKRUNK!
GET BACK! THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE!

HI-EX!
BWWAMMM!

THEY JUST CAME UP AND STARTED SLUGGING
I DREW THEM DOWN INTO THE UNDERPASS TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES.
DEFECTIVES?

NO ONE I MIGHT BUY – NOT BOTH OF THEM
BESIDES, THE SERIAL NUMBERS HAVE BEEN BURNT OFF – PRETTY THOROUGH JOB. SOMEBODY DIDN'T WANT THEM TRACED

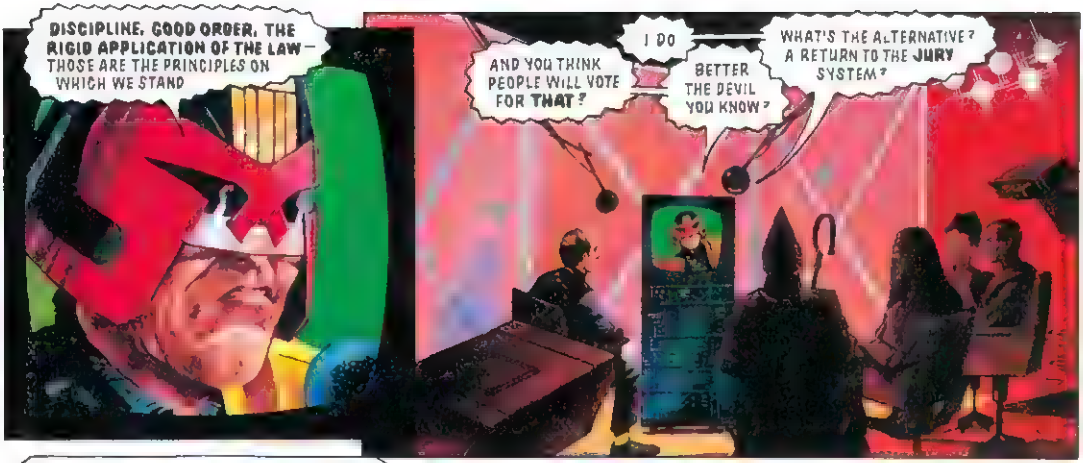
THEY WERE SENT TO DO A SPOT OF DEMOLITION ON ME, ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY SHORT OF ENEMIES. IF WE START COMPILING A LIST OF POSSIBLE SUSPECTS WE'LL STILL BE HERE THIS TIME NEXT YEAR
WORK ON THE ROBOTS – THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY OF TRACING THEM BACK. QUESTION THE WITNESSES – ONE OF THEM MIGHT HAVE SEEN WHICH DIRECTION THEY CAME FROM

KEEP ME INFORMED. MY DEATH WOULD BE RATHER INCONVENIENT AT THE MOMENT.

POWER TO THE PEOPLE!
DEMOCRACY NOW!
JUDGES
ONE-TWO-THREE-FOUR! NO MORE JUDGES ANYMORE!
FIVE-SIX-SEVEN-EIGHT! THE PEOPLE GONNA LEGISLATE!
JUDGES ARE LEAVING THE PRE-REFERENDUM MEETING NOW —
JUDGE DREDD! IT'S A VIRTUAL CERTAINTY THAT ON OCTOBER 1ST THE RULE OF THE JUDGES WILL AT LAST COME TO AN END —
I DON'T AGREE
YOU THINK THE VOTE MIGHT GO YOUR WAY?
BUT WHAT CAN YOU OFFER EXCEPT... MORE OF THE SAME?
EXACTLY. PEOPLE KNOW WHERE THEY STAND WITH US. I THINK THEY APPRECIATE THAT
WE'RE NOT PERFECT THERE MAY BE ROOM FOR US TO TAKE MORE ACCOUNT OF THE CITIZENS' WISHES — SOME LAWS MAY BE IN NEED OF REVISION — BUT OTHERWISE, NOTHING'S CHANGED.
DISCIPLINE. GOOD ORDER. THE RIGID APPLICATION OF THE LAW — THOSE ARE THE PRINCIPLES ON WHICH WE STAND.
AND YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL VOTE FOR THAT?
I DO
BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW?
WHAT'S THE ALTERNATIVE? A RETURN TO THE JURY SYSTEM?
WHY NOT?
AND WHILE WE'RE TIED UP IN RED TAPE, WHO'S WATCHING THE STREETS?
WHEN SOME CREEP'S HOLDING A KNIFE TO YOUR THROAT, WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEE RIDING UP. ME — OR YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE?
THINK ABOUT IT.
JUDGE GRICE! RUMOUR IS THE DECISION TO HOLD A REFERENDUM WAS NOT UNANIMOUS — THAT THERE IS, IN FACT, A LARGE NUCLEUS OF JUDGES WHO ARE STILL VIOLENTLY OPPOSED TO THE PROSPECT ..?
NO COMMENT

MEGA-CITY ONE
22 50 HOURS
JUDGE DREDD
THE DEVIL YOU KNOW
PART THREE
THE ROBOTS FAILED
J WAGNER
J ANDERSON
T FRAME
I HEARD

DAMN HIM! HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LUCKY JUDGE!
IT'S A BAD SIGN. I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE STARTED THIS!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH IT ALL BEFORE. WE HAVE TO DO IT
WELL I DON'T LIKE IT!
I NEVER LIKED IT, TURNING ON ONE OF OUR OWN! IT'S A CRIME, FOR GRUD'S SAKE — WE'RE COMMITTING MURDER!
MURDER? WHAT KIND OF FOOL'S TALK IS THAT? IF THE REFERENDUM GOES AHEAD IT'S THE END OF US — YOU KNOW THAT, CROSBY
GRUD! DID YOU HEAR HIM TONIGHT?
"OH, YES, THE CITIZENS WILL VOTE FOR US WE'RE GOING TO KEEP ON KNOCKING SEVEN KINDS OF HELL OUT OF THEM BUT THEY'LL STILL VOTE FOR US, BECAUSE THAT'S THE WAY THEY LIKE IT!"
HAHAHAHA-HAHAAAAA-HAHAHAHA!
THE MAN'S MAD! HE'LL PLUNGE THIS CITY INTO CHAOS — ANARCHY!
FOR THE GOOD OF EVERYONE HE HAS TO BE REMOVED THEN WE CAN STOP THIS REFERENDUM NONSENSE BEFORE IT GETS OUT OF HAND
SWAZE — YOU SAID SOMEONE IN CENTRAL CONTROL IS WITH US? I WANT YOU TO GET ON TO HIM.
HER
HER
WE WON'T LEAVE IT TO ROBOTS THIS TIME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AND YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL VOTE FOR THAT?
I DO
BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW?
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WHEN SOME CREEP'S HOLDING A KNIFE TO YOUR THROAT, WHO DO YOU WANT TO SEE RIDING UP — ME — OR YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE?
THINK ABOUT IT
BLONDEL DUPRE, LEADER OF THE DEMOCRATIC COALITION — BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW?
HE'S USING SCARE TACTICS TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE INTO VOTING FOR HIM. HE MAKES IT SOUND AS IF THERE'LL BE NO FORM OF LAW ENFORCEMENT UNDER DEMOCRACY — AS IF CRIMINALS WOULD BE RUNNING WILD ON THE STREETS
IT'S SO OBVIOUS IT'S LAUGHABLE!

WOULD YOU SEE THE JUDGES BEING RETAINED?
MY OWN PARTY, NO. WE FAVOUR A RETURN TO A SEPARATE POLICE FORCE AND JUDICIARY. BUT THAT, OF COURSE, WOULD DEPEND ON THE VOTERS. THE REAL CONTEST WON'T BEGIN UNTIL AFTER THE REFERENDUM.
IGNATZ BERNSTEIN OF THE ELECTORAL STUDY GROUP — DO THE JUDGES HAVE A CHANCE?
DREDD IS PROBABLY THE ONLY MAN IN THE CITY WHO THINKS SO!
WE CAN DISMISS THAT AS AN IRRELEVANCE AND GET DOWN TO THE REAL MATTER AT ISSUE — WHAT FORM OF GOVERNMENT WE WILL HAVE WHEN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS IS OVER

FOR INSTANCE, DO WE GO FOR SOME FORM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION OR A SIMPLE FIRST PAST THE POST SYSTEM? DO WE ADOPT A PRESIDENTIAL OR A PARLIAMENTARY STYLE OF GOVERNMENT? WE MIGHT AS WELL START DISCUSSING THESE ISSUES NOW
AUGUST WINDY OF THE SKEPTICS — YOU WANT TO COME IN THERE
UH, YEAH
I'D JUST LIKE TO ASK — ASSUMING WE DO ACTUALLY HAVE A REFERENDUM, WHICH I DOUBT — WHAT MAKES ANYONE THINK THE JUDGES ARE GOING TO ACCEPT THE RESULT?
WE HAVE JUDGE DREDD'S WORD. WHATEVER ELSE I MAY THINK OF HIM, I BELIEVE HE'LL BEHAVE HONOURABLY.
YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I REMAIN SCEPTICAL.
I'LL FORGIVE YOU, MY SON
BISHOP DESMOND SNODGRASS — WHERE DOES THE CHURCH STAND?
OH, I THINK VERY MUCH WHERE IT ALWAYS HAS
IT'S ON THE CORNER OF MILLET STREET, JUST ACROSS FROM THE DELI
IT'S GOT A BIG STEEPLE AND STAINED GLASS WINDOWS AND STUFF YOU CAN'T MISS IT
CONTROL TO DREDD! CALLER REPORTS DISTURBANCE, AMOX STOREHOUSE ON KELSEY
I'VE GOT TWO PRISONERS HERE, CONTROL CAN YOU ASSIGN ANOTHER UNIT?

NEGATIVE. YOU'RE THE NEAREST.
OKAY, I'LL LEAVE 'EM ON HOLD
LOITERING WITH INTENT, VID SHOP ON 199TH. SENTENCE DEFERRED PENDING INTERROGATION.
WILCO.
WE MUST REMEMBER JUDGE DREDD IS JUST ONE MAN. WITHOUT HIM, WHAT LITTLE SUPPORT THERE IS FOR THE REFERENDUM WITHIN JUSTICE DEPT WOULD CRUMBLE WITHOUT DREDD, THERE WOULD BE NO REFERENDUM
THINK ABOUT IT
DREDD – RILEY! THOSE ROBOTS WHO TRIED TO DO A DEMOLITION JOB ON YOU – WE GOT A BREAK
WITNESSES COME UP WITH SOMETHING?
NO, THE USUAL BUNCH OF DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND. THIS IS EVEN BETTER –
HE'S TURNING INTO KELSEY NOW
– OR WORSE, DEPENDING HOW YOU LOOK AT IT.

WHOEVER SICCED THOSE ROBOTS ON YOU GOT THE SERIAL NUMBERS. ALL RIGHT – BUT THEY MISSED SOMETHING ELSE. ONE OF THEM HAD A REPLACEMENT ROTOR JOINT – BRIT-CIT JOB, SPECIAL IMPORT
I TRACED IT BACK TO A ROBOT OWNED BY SEARS CONSTRUCT. ONE OF TWO STOLEN FOUR MONTHS AGO
BLOOD
SO FIND THE THIEF..
THE CREEPS HAVE ALREADY BEEN FOUND – THEY'RE DOING THREE IN THE CUBES THE ROBOTS WERE RECOVERED.
THIS IS THE INTERESTING BIT SEARS CONSTRUCT WENT BUST THE ROBOTS WERE NEVER COLLECTED
STAIRS ARE OUT
ELEVATOR COMING
FOR THE PAST THREE MONTHS THEY'VE BEEN STORED IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT POUND!

JUDGE DREDD

I CHECKED WITH THE POOL — THE ROBOTS ARE GONE. ONLY A **JUDGE** WOULD HAVE HAD FREE ACCESS TO THEM.

THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

MORE BLOOD IN THE LIFT...

SOMEONE IN THE DEPARTMENT IS OUT TO GET YOU!

UP

DREDD! DO YOU HEAR ME? RESPOND!

PART THREE

COMING

GET READY.

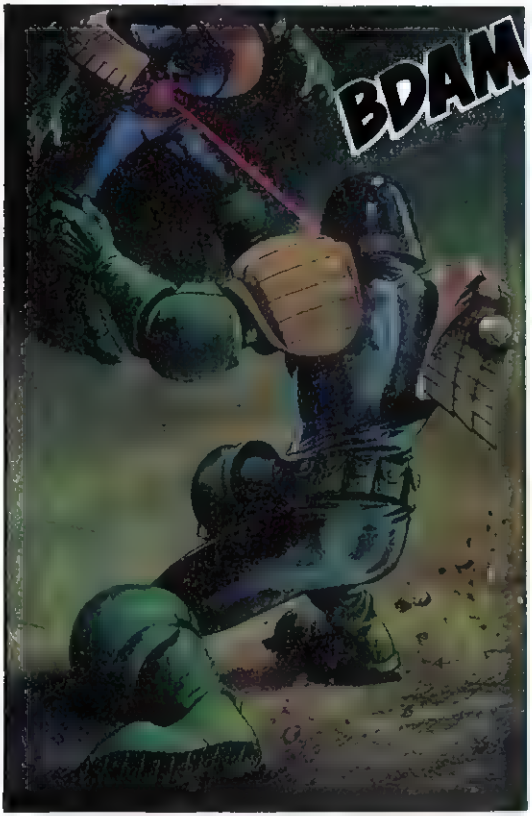
HE'S HERE.

Script J WAGNER
Art J ANDERSON
Lettering T FRAME

FADOOM
FADOOM
FADOOM
FADOOM
FADOOM
FADOOM

FTOOM
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
GRUD-!
DROP 'EM!
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, SWAZE. RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE IF THEY TAKE YOU OUT OF HERE IN A BAG.
DROP IT!
JUST AS YOU LIKE-
TAKE HIM!
FTOOM
KBLAM!

BLAMM
AAAAAG6HH!


BDAM

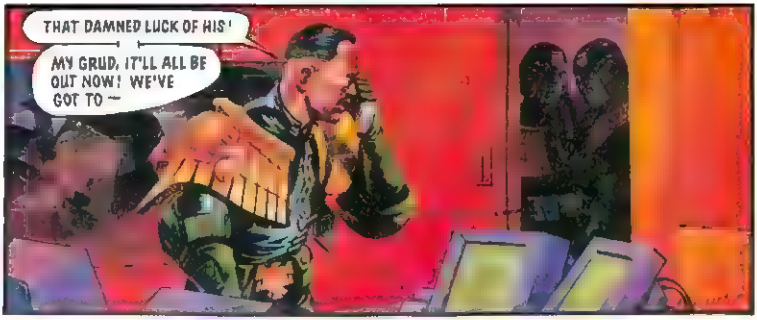
CROSBY ?

I...! NEVER WANTED ANY PART IN THIS ANYWAY
BUT YOU'RE HERE

DON'T YOU SEE, DREDD, WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS WRONG. THIS REFERENDUM...
A TERRIBLE MISTAKE...

I WANT NAMES – EVERYONE INVOLVED!
I-I CAN'T DO THAT.
DON'T START DISCOVERING SCRUPLES, CROSBY – YOU WERE PREPARED TO BETRAY ME
COME ON! YOU KNOW WE'LL GET THEM FROM YOU! NAMES!
I DON'T KNOW EVERYONE... GRICE – HE KNOWS ASK GRICE
I MIGHT HAVE FIGURED GRICE WAS BEHIND THIS.
CONTROL JUDGE WHO DIRECTED ME HERE TOLD ME I WAS THE NEAREST UNIT. BUT THERE WAS A JUDGE WATCHING FROM THE OVERPASS – POSSIBLY THEIR LOOKOUT
PICK THEM BOTH UP, THEY'RE PROBABLY INVOLVED KEEP SQUEEZING CROSBY. EVERYTHING HE KNOWS NO TELLING HOW FAR THIS THING HAS SPREAD.
YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH RIGHT NOW, BUT THIS – JUDGES PLOTTING YOUR MURDER... IT MAKES YOU DESPAIR...
YEAH... THE DEVIL YOU KNOW
NOT ALWAYS BETTER

THEY WHAT -?


THAT DAMNED LUCK OF HIS!
MY GRUD, IT'LL ALL BE OUT NOW! WE'VE GOT TO —

YOUR LAWGIVER
THAT'S IT, THEN...
AM I... UNDER ARREST ?

OUR ORDERS ARE JUST TO DETAIN YOU HERE

"JUDGE DREDD IS ON HIS WAY."

JUDGE DREDD
THE DEVIL YOU KNOW
JUDGES OUT!
JUDGES OUT!
WE'RE GONNA KICK YOUR BUTT, DREDD!
FIRST OF NOVEMBER, BABY!
17
THIS IS BETWEEN HIM AND ME
J WAGNER
J ANDERSON
T FRAME

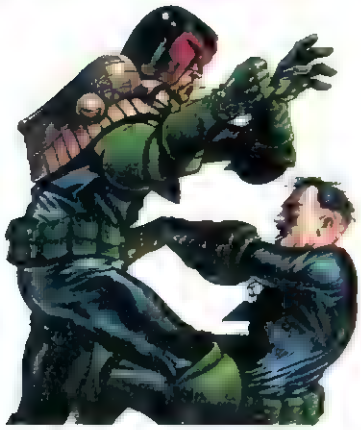
HOW MANY MORE DID YOU CORRUPT, GRICE?
HOW MANY JUDGES HAVE YOU SUCKED INTO YOUR SORDID LITTLE CONSPIRACY, EH?
YOU'D BE SURPRISED
RECRUITS WEREN'T HARD TO FIND. YOU'RE DANGEROUS, DREDD. YOU HAVE TO BE REMOVED.
I'M DANGEROUS?
I'M DANGEROUS?
DREDD

THWAK-K-K-K!
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT I'M DANGEROUS!

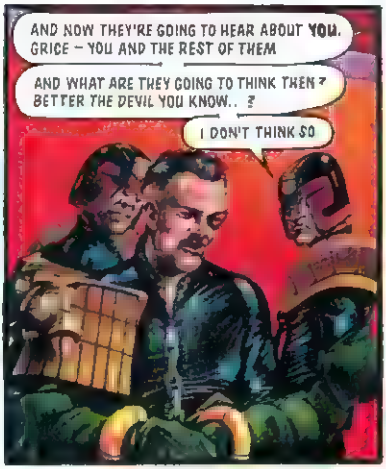
WHAKKK!
UNGGGG!
THIS IS TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL...
YEAH
CRASHHH!
WE SHOULDN'T BE STANDING HERE LETTING IT HAPPEN.
NO...

SMAAACKK!
WHAMMM!
THEN AGAIN, WE CAN'T BE ABSOLUTELY SURE A CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED...
NO...NO, TRUE..
THEY COULD, FOR INSTANCE, BE PLAYING A BOISTEROUS GAME OF SOME SORT...
KRUNK!
WHHUMP!
OR REDECORATING THE OFFICE. THAT MAKES A LOT OF NOISE
YES, I'M SURE YOU'RE RIGHT. THAT MUST BE IT.
THOP!
WAKKKK!
SPOT OF REDECORATION
CRAAAASSH!
NICE

YOU PIECE OF GARBAGE, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE? YOU'VE **LOST** IT FOR US!
YOU'RE A FOOL, DREDD! YOU. .YOU THINK WE EVER HAD A CHANCE? THE PEOPLE **HATE** US!



MAYBE THEY DO, GRICE. THEY SURE DON'T LOVE US. BUT FOR ALL THAT, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT ELSE THEY DO.. THEY **TRUST** US
FOR ALL OUR FAULTS, FOR ALL OUR MISTAKES, THE PEOPLE KNOW THAT WE STAND BY OUR PRINCIPLES AND **WE DON'T BEND**
THAT MEANS A LOT MORE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK


AND NOW THEY'RE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT **YOU**, GRICE – YOU AND THE REST OF THEM
AND WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO THINK THEN? BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW.. ?
I DON'T THINK SO

AND MAYBE THEY'LL BE RIGHT

TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING

SCRIPT
GARTH ENNIS

ART
JOHN M. BURNS

LETTERS
TOM FRAME

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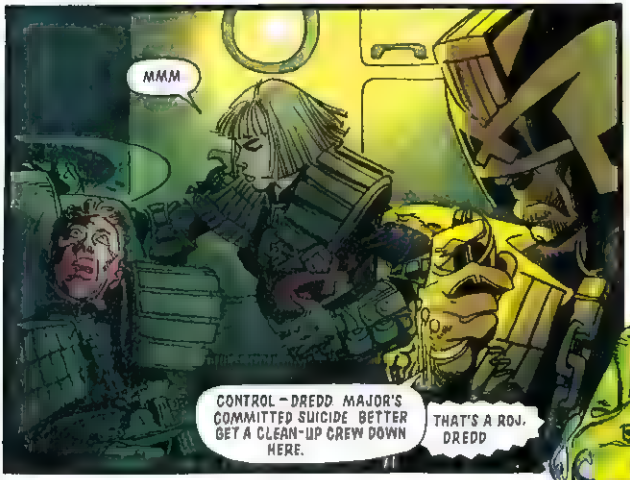
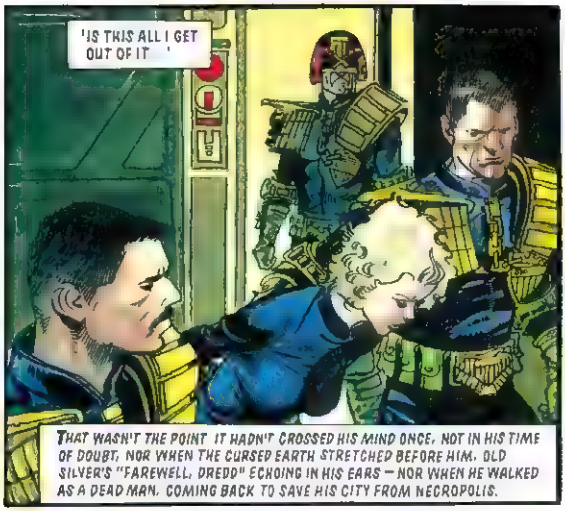
JUDGE DREDD

TWILIGHT'S LAST GLEAMING

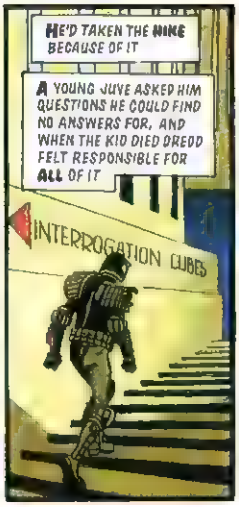


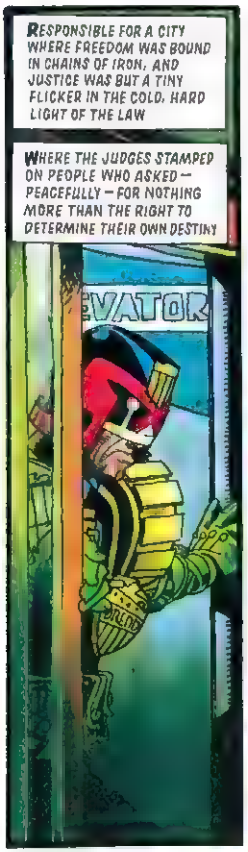
RILEY CALLED THROUGH – GRICE SQUEALED ON HIS WAY TO THE TITAN SHUFFLE
THE FOURTH TRAITOR IS WINDSOR AND THEIR CONTACT IN CONTROL IS YOUR OLD PAL DEGAULLE GOT 'EM ON HOLD DOWNSTAIRS.
ON MY WAY

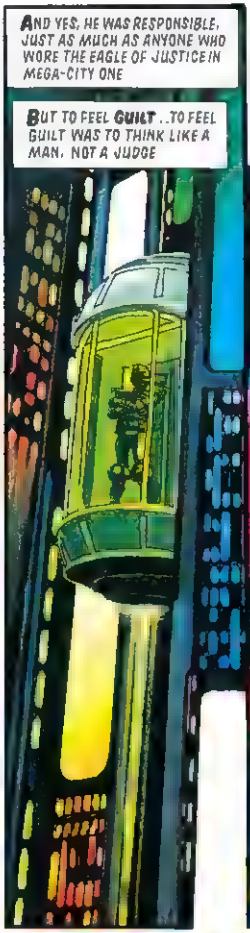
YOU'RE WASHED UP, DEGAULLE. YOUR CO-CONSPIRATORS ARE ALL DEAD OR ON THE TITAN TRIP – YOU'RE NEXT.
WANT TO TELL ME ABOUT ANYONE ELSE INVOLVED IN THE PLOT AGAINST ME, OR DO WE USE THE PENTATHOL?
DAMN YOU, DREDD! YOU'RE ENJOYING THIS!
I'M IN NO MOOD FOR YOUR BULL, DEGAULLE! WHO ELSE?
N-N-NO-ONE!
THERE'S NO-ONE, DREDD. WE COULDN'T TRUST THEM – THEY'RE ALL READY TO HAND THIS CITY TO THE DEMOCRATS IN THE REFERENDUM, JUST LIKE YOU.
THE FOOLS!
LIE DETECTOR CONFIRMS, DREDD. SHE'S THE LAST
OKAY, CLOSE IT UP TITAN SHUTTLE GOES IN FIVE
I DON'T GET IT, DEGAULLE. WE MAY HAVE HAD OUR DIFFERENCES, BUT I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE A DAMN GOOD JUDGE. WHY THROW IT DOWN THE TOILET?
WHY-? HA!
BECAUSE I'M NOT A GRUDDAM ROBOT, DREDD!
FIFTEEN YEARS I'M ON THE STREETS – THEN SOME LITTLE PUNK TAKES HALF MY GUTS OUT WITH A LAS-BLASTER AND I WIND UP STUCK BEHIND A SCREEN IN CONTROL!
AND I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING, JEEZ GRUD ABOVE – IS THIS ALL I GET OUT OF IT?


'IS THIS ALL I GET OUT OF IT '
THAT WASN'T THE POINT. IT HADN'T CROSSED HIS MIND ONCE, NOT IN HIS TIME OF DOUBT, NOR WHEN THE CURSED EARTH STRETCHED BEFORE HIM. OLD SILVER'S "FAREWELL, DREDD" ECHOING IN HIS EARS — NOR WHEN HE WALKED AS A DEAD MAN, COMING BACK TO SAVE HIS CITY FROM NECROPOLIS.

CONTROL. WE'RE FINISHED HERE. INFORM THE CHIEF JUDGE I'M ON MY WAY
WILCO
NO. HIS PROBLEM HAD BEEN DIFFERENT


HE'D TAKEN THE NINE BECAUSE OF IT
A YOUNG JUVE ASKED HIM QUESTIONS HE COULD FIND NO ANSWERS FOR, AND WHEN THE KID DIED DREDD FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF IT
INTERROGATION CUBES


RESPONSIBLE FOR A CITY WHERE FREEDOM WAS BOUND IN CHAINS OF IRON, AND JUSTICE WAS BUT A TINY FLICKER IN THE COLD, HARD LIGHT OF THE LAW
WHERE THE JUDGES STAMPED ON PEOPLE WHO ASKED — PEACEFULLY — FOR NOTHING MORE THAN THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN DESTINY

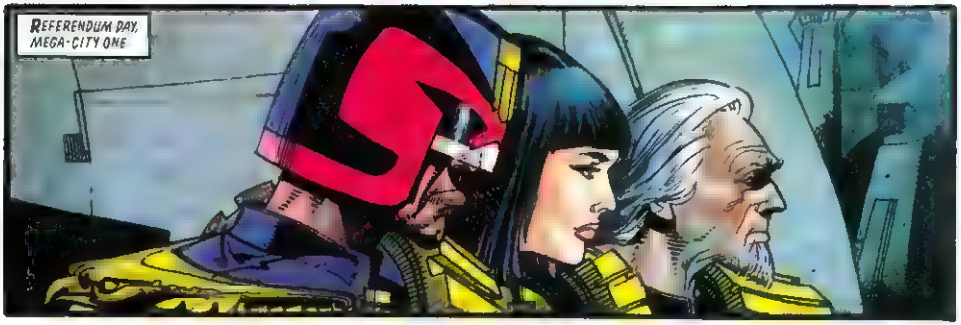

AND YES, HE WAS RESPONSIBLE, JUST AS MUCH AS ANYONE WHO WORE THE EAGLE OF JUSTICE IN MEGA-CITY ONE
BUT TO FEEL GUILT ..TO FEEL GUILT WAS TO THINK LIKE A MAN, NOT A JUDGE

BECAUSE WHERE A MAN WOULD BE WEAK, A JUDGE WOULD BE STRONG WHERE A MAN WOULD FOOL HIMSELF THAT MILLIONS OF PEOPLE COULD LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE, A JUDGE WOULD KNOW THAT THAT WAS JUST A PIPEDREAM, AND THAT IRON-FISTED LAW WAS NEEDED TO STOP MURDEROUS CHAOS.
AND MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, DREDD WAS A JUDGE

HE DIDN'T NEED ANYTHING OUT OF IT. THE JOB WAS ITS OWN REWARD
135
TOP FLOOR
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO HE'D BEEN RETURNING FROM HIS TOUR AS JUDGE MARSHAL OF LUNA-ONE, AND AS THEY WERE COMING IN ON THE SPACEPORT HE'D GLANCED OUT OF THE WINDOW.
FROM THAT HIGH UP THE CITY LOOKED BEAUTIFUL, LIKE A HUGE JEWEL ON THE EAST COAST – SUN DANCING ON THE GLASSEEN TOWERS, THE MEGA-WAYS CRISS-CROSSING IN A BLUR OF MOVEMENT, AND A MUTED NEON GLOW WINKING FROM THE CONSTANT TWILIGHT OF THE LOWEST LEVELS
HOWDY, JOE. GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.
HALF AN HOUR TO GO
YEAH
HE COULDN'T SEE THE CANCER FROM THAT DISTANCE; THE BLOATED EVIL ROT THAT TOUCHED EVERYONE BELOW AND CUT A FLAW IN THE JEWEL LIKE A GANGRENOUS WOUND.
BUT DREDD LOOKED OUT OVER THE CITY – HIS CITY – AND HE KNEW.
"MEGA-CITY ONE...EIGHT HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE AND EVERYONE OF THEM A POTENTIAL CRIMINAL. THE MOST VIOLENT, EVIL CITY ON EARTH... BUT, GOD HELP ME; I LOVE IT."

ONLY TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES TO GO UNTIL THE HIGH NOON SHOWDOWN, FOLKS – JUDGES VERSUS DEMOCRATS! NO GUNS, NO NUKES, NO FIGHTING AT ALL – JUST VOTES!
YESSIR, THE REFERENDUM. WHEN THE CITIZENS DECIDE ONCE AND FOR ALL WHO'S GONNA BE THE BIG CHEEZ IN THE BIG MEG
THIS COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT POINT IN THE CITY'S HISTORY KIDDIES WE HAVEN'T HAD DEMOCRACY FOR OVER FORTY YEARS – WILL IT BE BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW, OR IS THIS WHEN WE START CHOOSING OUR RULERS ? CHANNEL TREVOR'S BEEN GETTING SOME ON THE SPOT GUFF –
THIS IS THE DAY THAT WE HAVE STRIVEN AND FOUGHT FOR – AND THAT SOME OF US HAVE DIED FOR TODAY WE FREE OURSELVES FROM THE TYRANNY OF THE JUDGES
THIS IS OUR DAY!
BLONDEL DUPRE DEMOCRATS LEADER
VOTE – ? NAH, I DON'T DANCE
AMBULANCE CHASING UNEMPLOYED CEEW
YEAH I'LL VOTE – THEN I'LL GO BACK TO WORK HERE AT NIK'S NICE NOSH, OVER ON MORTIMER STREET. WHY NOT POP IN?
NICK'S NICE NOSH
NIK TYNEFOG EATERIE OWNER
THERE YOU HAVE IT! EXPERTS ARE PREDICTING A MASSIVE LANDSLIDE VICTORY FOR THE DEMS –
GODDAM REPEATS!
SWITCHA CHANNEL, JUNIOR! FIND SUMP'N ELSE!

ONE MINUTE 'TIL THE VOTE LOOKS LIKE MOST FOLKS'VE MADE UP THEIR MINDS ALREADY, JOE.
KLIK
APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEPTIVE, CHIEF JUDGE.
YEAH. SURE HOPE SO, ANYHOW
HELL OF A RISK WE'RE TAKING HERE.
BUT A VITAL ONE
THE DEMOCRATS HAVE GOT THE CITIZENS ON A KNIFE EDGE, HERSHEY. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST LAY IN WITH THE DAYSTICKS ANY MORE — THAT'S JUST STORING UP MORE TROUBLE.
NO. IF WE WANT TO CARRY ON WITH THE HEAVY DISCIPLINE THEN WE — AND THEY — HAVE TO KNOW THEY WANT IT.
THAT'S TRUE, JOE.
AND ANY SECOND NOW WE'RE GONNA KNOW ALRIGHT.
ALL OF US
JUDGES OUT



JUDGE DREDD

Twilight's Last Gleaming Part 2

GARTH ENNIS
JOHN BURNS
TOM FRAME

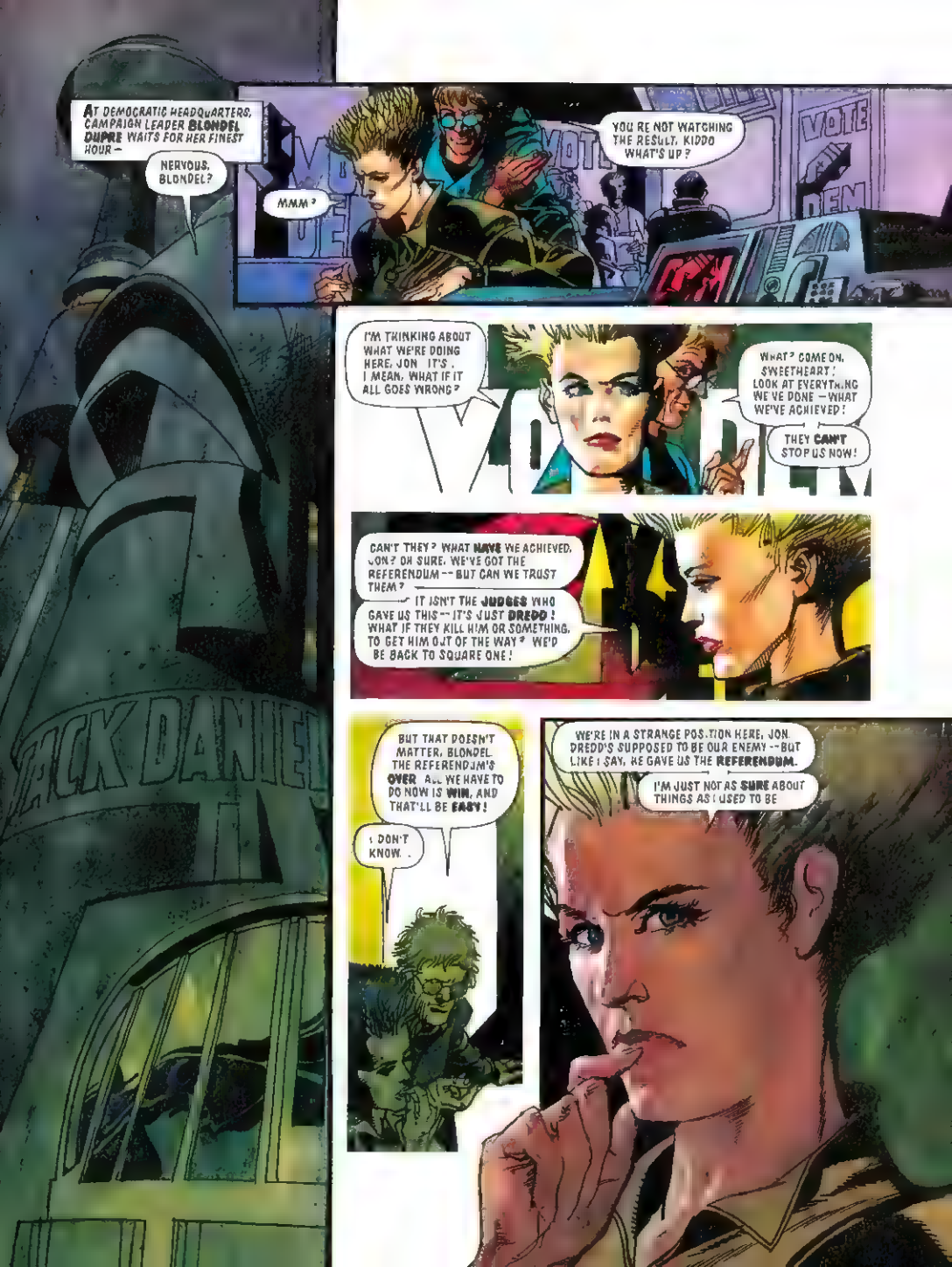
PERHAPS EVEN THE **CITY** HOLDS ITS BREATH AS ITS CHILDREN VOTE ON THEIR FUTURE

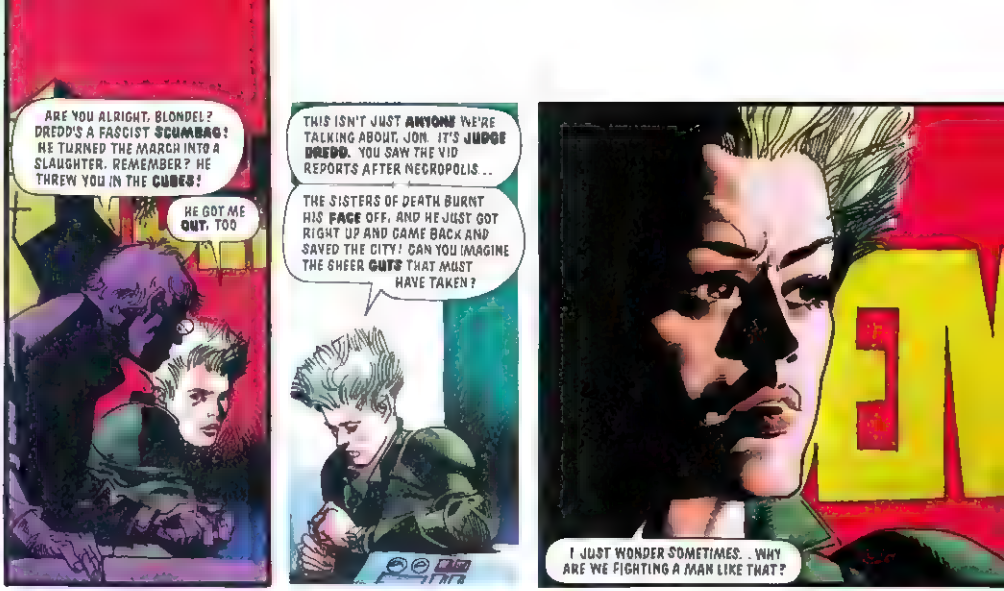
A HUSH LIES OVER THE CONCRETE JUNGLE. A SILENCE SO KISSED WITH DESTINY THAT IT **SCREAMS** THROUGH THE PEDWAYS AND ZOOM TUBES, AROUND THE BLOCKS AND MEZZANINES TO ECHO ACROSS THIS VAST METROPOLIS ON THIS HISTORIC DAY

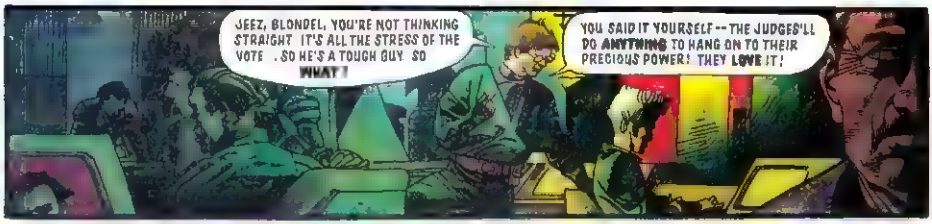
CAN YOU HEAR IT...?

DREDD CAN

NOON
THE CITIZENS VOTE
THE VOTES UPLOAD DIRECTLY INTO THE BALLOTEER MAINFRAME COMPUTER. BUILT IN 2067 FOR THE LAST PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AND DUSTED OFF ESPECIALLY FOR THE FIRST REFERENDUM IN 46 YEARS
THUS THE CITIZENS WILL HAVE TO WAIT QUITE A BIT LONGER THAN IF THE VOTES WERE BEING TABULATED BY CURRENT MEGA-CITY TECHNOLOGY ABOUT SIX MINUTES.
THE CHOICE IS CLEAR
JUDICIAL CONTROL
OR DEMOCRACY
THE IRON FIST OF THE LAW AND THE CERTAINTY OF RETRIBUTION. HARSH LAWS THAT MANY COULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND. THE GUN AND THE DAYSTICK
OR
We the People
Article. I
RULE BY AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT. WITH LAWMAKERS AND LAWKEEPERS SEPARATE, EACH BALANCING THE OTHER'S POWER.
SOMETHING MOST CITIZENS HAVE NEVER KNOWN
INTERFACE CH.
MAINFRAME
A
B

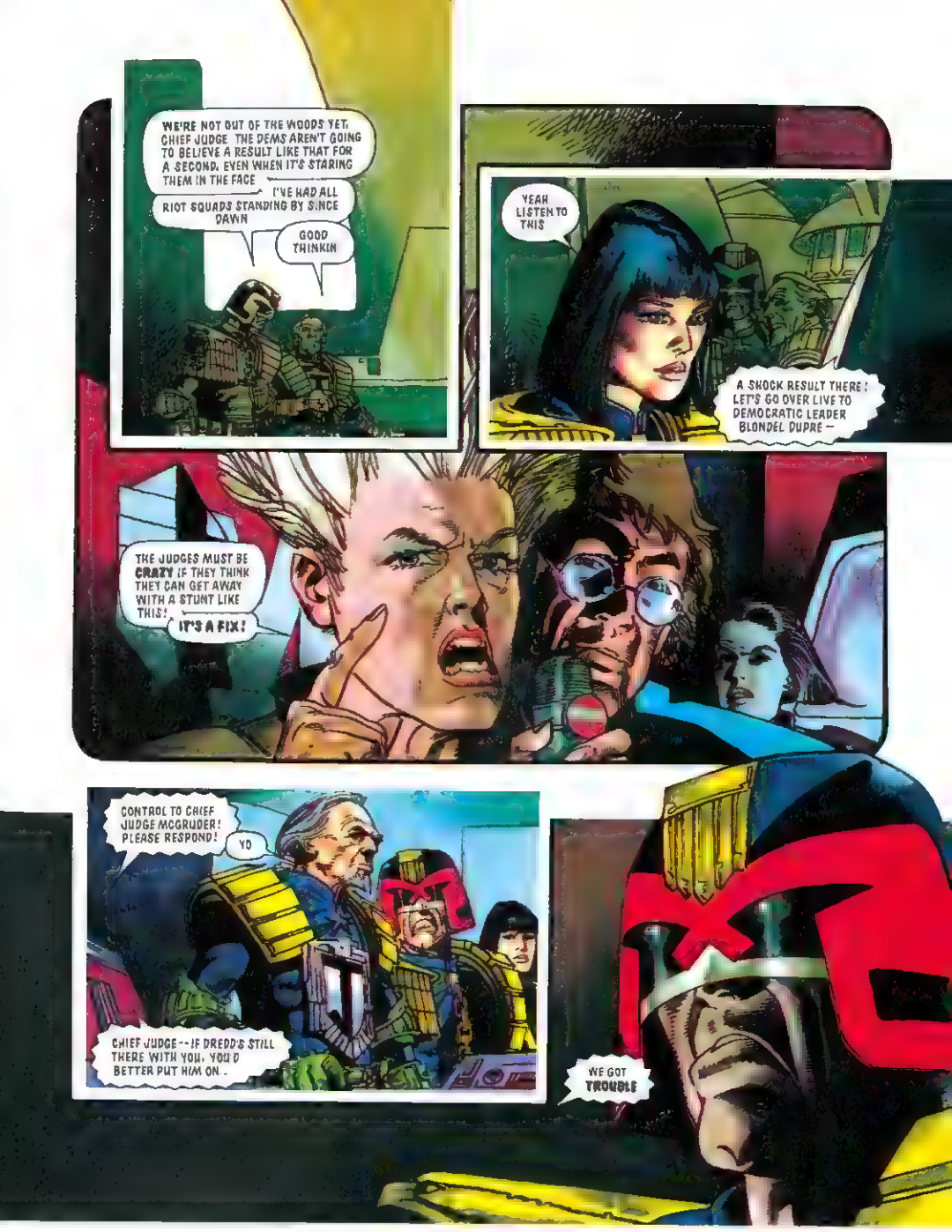

AT DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS, CAMPAIGN LEADER BLONDEL DUPRE WAITS FOR HER FINEST HOUR —
NERVOUS, BLONDEL?
MMM?
YOU'RE NOT WATCHING THE RESULT, KIDDO — WHAT'S UP?
VOTE
I'M THINKING ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING HERE, JON. IT'S, I MEAN, WHAT IF IT ALL GOES WRONG?
WHAT? COME ON, SWEETHEART! LOOK AT EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE — WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED!
THEY CAN'T STOP US NOW!
CAN'T THEY? WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED, JON? OH SURE, WE'VE GOT THE REFERENDUM -- BUT CAN WE TRUST THEM?
IT ISN'T THE JUDGES WHO GAVE US THIS -- IT'S JUST DREDD! WHAT IF THEY KILL HIM OR SOMETHING, TO GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY? WE'D BE BACK TO SQUARE ONE!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER, BLONDEL. THE REFERENDUM'S OVER. ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW IS WIN, AND THAT'LL BE EASY!
I DON'T KNOW...
WE'RE IN A STRANGE POSITION HERE, JON. DREDD'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUR ENEMY -- BUT LIKE I SAY, HE GAVE US THE REFERENDUM.
I'M JUST NOT AS SURE ABOUT THINGS AS I USED TO BE


ARE YOU ALRIGHT, BLONDEL? DREDD'S A FASCIST SCUMBAG! HE TURNED THE MARCH INTO A SLAUGHTER. REMEMBER? HE THREW YOU IN THE CUBES!
HE GOT ME OUT, TOO
THIS ISN'T JUST ANYONE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, JON. IT'S JUDGE DREDD. YOU SAW THE VID REPORTS AFTER NECROPOLIS..
THE SISTERS OF DEATH BURNT HIS FACE OFF, AND HE JUST GOT RIGHT UP AND CAME BACK AND SAVED THE CITY! CAN YOU IMAGINE THE SHEER GUTS THAT MUST HAVE TAKEN?
I JUST WONDER SOMETIMES.. WHY ARE WE FIGHTING A MAN LIKE THAT?

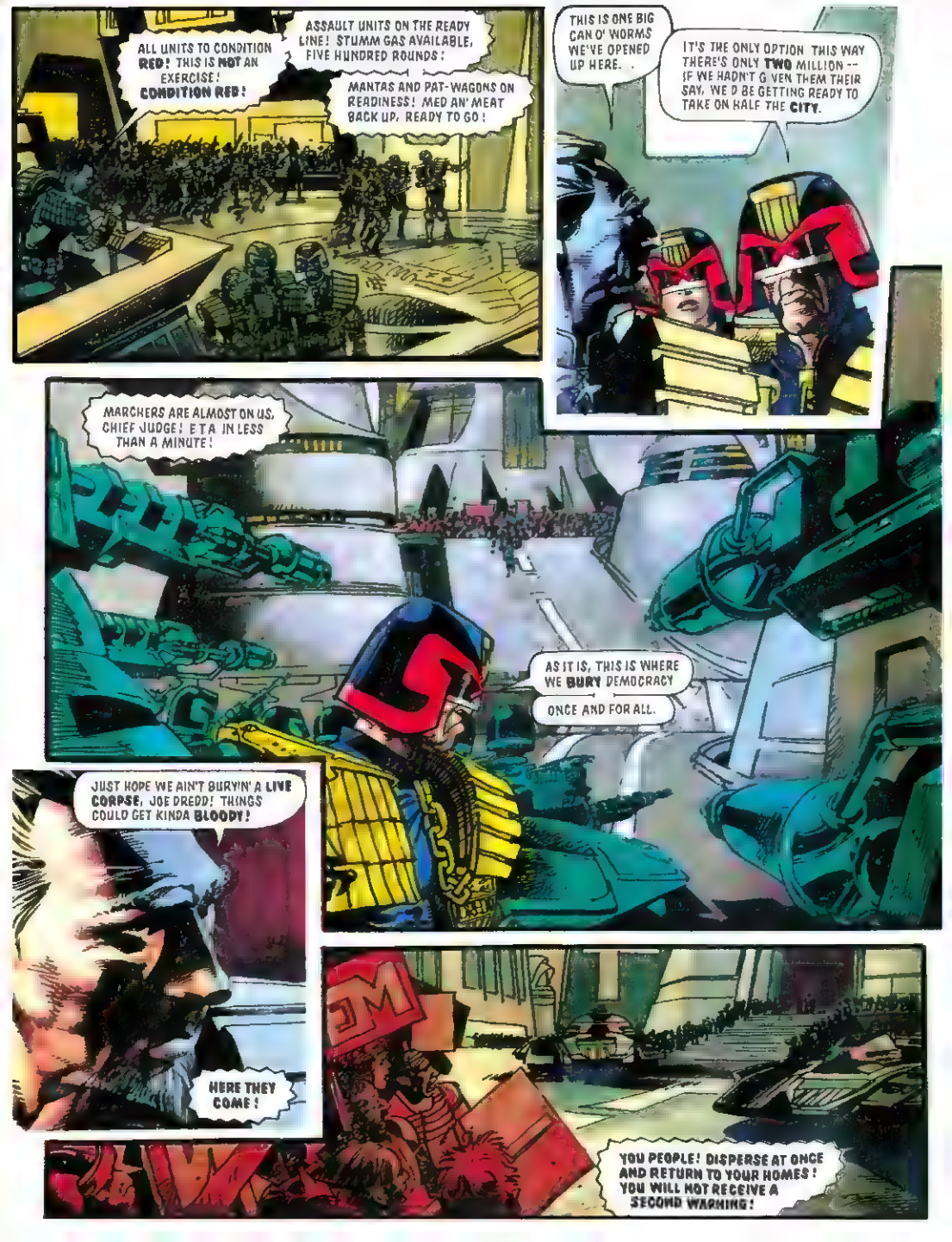

JEEZ, BLONDEL, YOU'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT. IT'S ALL THE STRESS OF THE VOTE. SO HE'S A TOUGH GUY. SO WHAT!
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF -- THE JUDGES'LL DO ANYTHING TO HANG ON TO THEIR PRECIOUS POWER! THEY LOVE IT!

WHY? THEY DON'T GET PAID. THEY DON'T HAVE LIVES OF THEIR OWN -- WHAT'S IN IT FOR THEM?
WHAT DO THEY GET OUT OF IT?
BLONDEL! JON! THIS IS IT!
RESULTS ARE IN, GUYS!
WELL, HERE WE GO, SWEETHEART
IN A FEW SECONDS, THE JUDGES WON'T MATTER ANYWAY

THIS IS THE MOMENT, PEOPLE THE VOTES ARE IN AND ARE BEING DOWNLOADED DIRECTLY TO YOU NOW WITH NO HUMAN INTERVENTION
GREETINGS, CITIZENS I, THE RETURNING ?clik? BALLOTEER MAINFRAME, CERTIFY THESE TO BE THE ACCURATE RESULTS OF THE ?clik? REFERENDUM
ONLY THIRTY-FIVE PERCENT OF CITIZENS EXERCISED THEIR GRUD-GIVEN RIGHT TO VOTE THE POOREST TURN-OUT IN ?clik? SEVENTY-FOUR YEARS
IF YOU DON'T VOTE FOR FOR YOUR CANDIDATES HOW DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO WIN?
GRUD! TWO HUNDRED CHANNELS AND THEY'RE ALL SHOWING THE SAME THING!
OF THE FORTY-THREE MILLION VOTES CAST, TWENTY-THREE PERCENT VOTED BOTH OPTIONS ?clik? AND THUS FORFEITED THEIR VOTES
NINE PERCENT VOTED FOR THE ?clik? DEMOCRATS
AND SIXTY-EIGHT PERCENT FOR THE JUDGES
THE JUDGES ARE DULY RETURNED FOR ANOTHER TERM OF OFFICE
"BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW"
UH-HUH


WE'RE NOT OUT OF THE WOODS YET, CHIEF JUDGE. THE DEMS AREN'T GOING TO BELIEVE A RESULT LIKE THAT FOR A SECOND, EVEN WHEN IT'S STARING THEM IN THE FACE
I'VE HAD ALL RIOT SQUADS STANDING BY SINCE DAWN
GOOD THINKIN
YEAH LISTEN TO THIS
A SHOCK RESULT THERE! LET'S GO OVER LIVE TO DEMOCRATIC LEADER BLONDEL DUPRE—
THE JUDGES MUST BE CRAZY IF THEY THINK THEY CAN GET AWAY WITH A STUNT LIKE THIS!
IT'S A FIX!
CONTROL TO CHIEF JUDGE MCGRUDER! PLEASE RESPOND!
YO
CHIEF JUDGE--IF DREDD'S STILL THERE WITH YOU, YOU'D BETTER PUT HIM ON.
WE GOT TROUBLE

THIS JUST IN. THE DEMS HAVEN'T TAKEN THEIR SHOCK DEFEAT AT ALL WELL! REPORTS ARE COMING IN OF A MASS MARCH ON THE HALL OF JUSTICE --
AND WHAT MUST THEY BE FEELING NOW! YEARS OF EFFORT AND STRUGGLE, ALL FOR NOTHING! OF THE MINORITY OF CITIZENS WHO BOTHERED TO VOTE, ONLY NINE PERCENT DID SO FOR DEMOCRACY!
FIX! FIX! FIX!
FIX! FIX! FIX!
DEM
DEM
DEM
DEM
DEM
FROM MANY QUARTERS THERE HAVE BEEN ACCUSATIONS OF VOTE FIXING ON THE PART OF THE JUDGES -- AND THE MARCHERS CERTAINLY BELIEVE THAT TO BE THE CASE! OBSERVERS ESTIMATE THERE ARE NEARLY TWO MILLION PEOPLE IN THEIR NUMBER -- WHAT THEIR INTENTIONS ARE, BEYOND SOME KIND OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE JUDGES, REMAINS UNCLEAR...
ONE THING IS CERTAIN -- THE JUDGES WON'T BE TOLERATING THIS KIND OF BEHAVIOUR!
THERE'LL BE BLOOD ON THE STREETS TODAY!
JUDGE DREDD
Twilight's Last Gleaming Part 3


ALL UNITS TO CONDITION RED! THIS IS NOT AN EXERCISE! CONDITION RED!
ASSAULT UNITS ON THE READY LINE! STUMM GAS AVAILABLE, FIVE HUNDRED ROUNDS!
MANTAS AND PAT-WAGONS ON READINESS! MED AN' MEAT BACK UP, READY TO GO!
THIS IS ONE BIG CAN O' WORMS WE'VE OPENED UP HERE. .
IT'S THE ONLY OPTION THIS WAY THERE'S ONLY TWO MILLION -- IF WE HADN'T G VEN THEM THEIR SAY, WE D BE GETTING READY TO TAKE ON HALF THE CITY.
MARCHERS ARE ALMOST ON US, CHIEF JUDGE! E T A IN LESS THAN A MINUTE!
AS IT IS, THIS IS WHERE WE BURY DEMOCRACY ONCE AND FOR ALL.
JUST HOPE WE AIN'T BURYIN' A LIVE CORPSE, JOE DREDD! THINGS COULD GET KINDA BLOODY!
HERE THEY COME!
YOU PEOPLE! DISPERSE AT ONCE AND RETURN TO YOUR HOMES! YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A SECOND WARNING!

FIX! FIX!
GO TO HELL, YOU CHEATING SCUMBAGS!
YOU WON'T GIVE US DEMOCRACY, WE'LL COME AND TAKE IT!
THIS IS NO GOOD, JON! THEY'LL MASSACRE EVERYONE!
HUH? WE CAN'T GIVE UP NOW, BLONDE! THEY'LL HAVE WON!
AT LEAST WE'LL BE ALIVE!
JUDGES OUT! JUDGES OUT!
GUESS WE GOT OUR ANSWER. MAY AS WELL--
NO
FIX! FIX! FIX!
THERE'S A BETTER WAY, CHIEF JUDGE. IT'LL SAVE LIVES -- AND IT'LL KILL ANY LAST THOUGHTS OF DEMOCRACY TEN TIMES AS DEAD AS AN ASSAULT UNIT COULD.
HUH?
HOLD ON TO THIS FOR ME, HERSHEY. I'LL BE BACK FOR IT.
I STARTED ALL THIS.
I'M GOING TO FINISH IT.
WHAT THE HELL--?
IS HE CRAZY?
IT'S A TRICK! BOUND TO BE!
I DON'T THINK SO

DUPRE
DREDD
TAKING A BIT OF A RISK COMING OUT HERE ALONE, AREN'T YOU? THERE'S TWO MILLION PEOPLE HERE
THERE'S ENOUGH FIREPOWER BACK THERE TO WIPE OUT TEN TIMES THAT NUMBER -- BUT I DON'T NEED THAT TODAY
YOU'RE GOING TO TURN ROUND AND GO HOME PEACEFULLY. EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU. AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY
WE DIDN'T FIX ANYTHING, DUPRE. THE REFERENDUM WAS CARRIED OUT FAIR AND SQUARE AND THE PEOPLE VOTED FOR US BECAUSE THEY CAN RELY ON US -- BECAUSE THEY KNOW WHERE THEY STAND.
WE DIDN'T HAVE TO FIX IT
DEMOCRACY'S NOT FOR THE PEOPLE -- NOT BECAUSE WE SAY SO, BUT BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT IT.
YOU PEOPLE ARE DREAMERS. THAT'S OKAY IN ITS PLACE, BUT NOT WHEN YOU WANT TO RULE -- TO MAKE THE LAW IN THIS CITY
BECAUSE HERE, I AM THE LAW
BUT-
LET'S HEAR IT, DUPRE
I
YOU ARE THE LAW, JUDGE DREDD

BLONDEL, ARE YOU CRAZY? WE—
OH FOR GRUD'S SAKE, JON! LEAVE IT!
BLONDEL DUPRE DIDN'T GO HOME THAT DAY. SHE WENT BACK TO THE DESERTED DEMOCRAT H.Q. AND SAT THERE UNTIL NIGHTFALL, THINKING ABOUT HER BROKEN HEART.
AND HER SHATTERED DREAMS
BLONDEL?
JON
YOU WEREN'T AT THE APARTMENT, HON. I WAS WORRIED.
I'M ALRIGHT. WHERE ARE ALL THE OTHERS?
THEY JUST WENT HOME, ALL OF THEM. I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
OH, JON. IT'S SIMPLE... DREDD'S RIGHT. WE'RE JUST USELESS DREAMERS. IT TAKES SOMEONE SPECIAL TO RULE THIS CITY. NOT US... WE'RE JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. ALL THE PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T BOTHER TO VOTE, WHO DON'T WANT THE TROUBLE WE JUST TOOK LONGER TO REALISE IT. THAT'S ALL
ALL WE CAN DO IS MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT WE'VE GOT.
WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, SWEETHEART. I GUESS THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
HERE OR ANYWHERE ELSE

"I KNOW"
"MEGA-CITY ONE... EIGHT HUNDRED MILLION PEOPLE AND EVERYONE OF THEM A POTENTIAL CRIMINAL. THE MOST EVIL, VIOLENT CITY ON EARTH... BUT, GOD HELP ME, I LOVE IT." JUDGE DREDD, 2100

GALLERY

2000 AD Prog 756: Cover by John M. Burns

SKETCHES BY COLIN MACNEIL

BENNET BENN

JOHN WAGNER

John Wagner has been scripting for **2000 AD** for more years than he cares to remember. His creations include *Judge Dredd, Strontium Dog, Ace Trucking, Al's Baby, Button Man* and *Mean Machine*. Outside of **2000 AD** his credits include *Star Wars, Lobo, The Punisher* and the critically acclaimed *A History of Violence*.

GARTH ENNIS

Garth Ennis first came to prominence as writer on *Troubled Souls*, the Northern Ireland-set series he created with John McCrea for *Crisis*. As well as scripting its sequel, *For a Few Troubles More* and *True Faith* (created with Warren Pleece), he was also a regular contributor to **2000 AD** and the **Judge Dredd Megazine**, writing *Judge Dredd, Strontium Dogs, The Corps, Time Flies, Chopper* and *Sleeze 'n' Ryder*. Outside of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, his well-received run on *Hellblazer* was followed by *Preacher*, the hugely successful DC Vertigo series he created with Steve Dillon, as well as titles such as *Hitman, Goddess, Bloody Mary*, and a lengthy run on *The Punisher*. He is currently writing *The Boys* and war series *Battlefields*, both of which are published by Dynamite Entertainment.

ALAN GRANT

With over 300 **2000 AD** stories to his name – not to mention over 250 Daily Star *Judge Dredd* strips – Alan Grant's prolific creative record speaks for itself. Outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, Grant is well-known to **Batman** fans following a lengthy run on various incarnations of the title. More recently he has adapted Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novels *Kidnapped* and *Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde* in Graphic Novel format with artist Cam Kennedy.

COLIN MACNEIL

Since joining **2000 AD** in 1986 Colin MacNeil has worked on many strips, including *Chopper: Song of the Surfer* and the infamous death of Johnny Alpha in *Strontium Dog: The Final Solution*. He went on to collaborate with John Wagner on the award-winning *America* for the **Judge Dredd Megazine**. He has also worked on *Shimura, Maelstrom* and *Fiends of the Eastern Front: Stalingrad*, and, outside of the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, provided the atmospheric artwork on *Bloodquest* for Games Workshop. He also enjoys creating large abstract paintings. He says it's art therapy!

JOHN HIGGINS

John Higgins is a multi-talented *2000 AD* artist and writer; as well as scripting a *Future Shock* and *Judge Dredd*, Higgins has illustrated *Chopper, Freaks, One-Offs, Tharg the Mighty* and *Time Twisters.*

His work outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic is also highly respected, and he has contributed to some of the most important series of recent times, including working as a colourist on the modern superhero classic *Watchmen*, and on Vertigo's *Animal Man, Hellblazer* and *Pride and Joy.*

JOHN M. BURNS

John Burns' painted art has graced several **2000 AD** series, notably in lengthy runs on *Judge Dredd* and *Nikolai Dante*, as well in as his own co-creations, *The Bendatti Vendetta* and *The Order.* Outside the Galaxy's Greatest Comic, he has pencilled Eclipse's *ESPers* and the James Bond miniseries, *A Silent Armageddon*.

JEFF ANDERSON

Jeff Anderson has illustrated *Judge Dredd*, *One-Offs* and *Tharg's Future Shocks* for **2000 AD**.

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